Story of a Teenager's Try to Kill Castro

New York

The Central Intelligence Agency gave a teenager poison capsules and sent her to Havana in 1960 to kill her ex-lover, Fidel Castro, the New York Daily News said yesterday.

The attempt failed when the capsules melted in the jar of cold cream in which the girl had hidden them, the newspaper said.

The News said the poison was supplied by Frank Fiorini, later known as Frank Sturgis, one of the men arrested and convicted in the Watergate burglary. The newspaper said Sturgis confirmed the story told by Marie Lorenz, who now lives in New York.

According to the account, Lorenz met Castro in 1959, soon after he seized power in Cuba, when he came aboard a German cruise liner captained by her German father. Lorenz' mother was an American, the News said.

Castro persuaded Lorenz to move into his suite in the Havana Hilton as his personal interpreter, according to the report. The News said she soon realized she was a virtual prisoner.

Fiorini, an officer of the Cuban Revolutionary Army and simultaneously a CIA agent, contacted her and persuaded her to photograph Castro's secret papers, the account said.

After 11 months, the girl flew to New York for medical treatment and was questioned by the FBI.

The FBI said it had no immediate comment on the story.

According to the News, Fiorini and another CIA agent, Alex Rorke, persuaded Lorenz to take part in several CIA-financed operatioms and then Rorke took her to the FBI office.

There, she said, she was asked about her attitude toward Castro.

Rorke said, " 'you could knock him off. It would save everybody a lot of trouble,' " she is quoted by the newspaper as saying; "I thought he was joking, but they kept coming back to it and I realized they were serious."

When she finally agreed, Fiorini qave her the capsules of powder and she was told to sprinkle it in Castro's coffee, the News said.

Lorenz flew to Havana. Fearful of a search at the airport, she hid the capsules in the jar of cold cream, the News said.

When she and Castro were reunited; she said, Castro took the phone off the hook and told his henchmen not to bother him.

When Castro fell asleep, Lorenz went to the bathroom to extricate tbe capsules from the cold cream.

"They had melted. It was like an omen.

"I couldn't just dump a glob of cold cream in his coffee, so I shut the jar, went back to the bedroom and I watched him sleeping. Finally I lay down on the bed beside him.

"I thought 'to hell with it. Let history take its course."

Associated Press

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