CIA agent tells Ruby-Oswald link

United Press International

MIAMI — Fidel Castro and Jack Ruby discussed "removal of the president" at a meeting 10 weeks prior to President Kennedy's assassination, according to Watergate burglar and one-time CIA agent Frank Sturgis.

Sturgis said in an interview yesterday he had been assigned to investigate possible involvement of Cuban exiles in the assassination.

The investigation failed to show any Cuban exile links, he said. But it produced evidence that Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and Ruby, who shot Oswald after the assassination, were "involved in the same conspiracy, along with other people," Sturgis said.

"Government agencies got quite a bit of information about this, not only from myself but from other intelligence sources in the U.S.," he said.

Sturgis declined to say what agency had ordered the investigation and would not reveal his source for the information of the Havana meeting.

Sturgis said he and "other agents" gave information of the meeting to several government agencies in 1964, while the Warren Commission was still conducting hearings, but he did not know whether the information reached the commission.

"If there was a coverup, the White House ordered the coverup," Sturgis said.

(A similar story was reported earlier this week by the New York News, which attributed the story about Ruby's alleged trip to an unnamed ex-CIA agent who also worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration.

(The source for the News' story reportedly revealed the information in testimony to the Senate intelligence committee.

(Laterthis week, Melvin Belli, Ruby's attorney and friend, denied that Ruby ever had met Castro, though he admitted a trip to Cuba may have occurred.)

Sturgis said the Havana meeting included Castro, Raul Castro, Che Guevara, Cuban intelligence chief Ramiro "Barba Roja (Red Beard)" Valdez and an Argentine woman who was a KGB (Soviet intelligence) agent.

He said Ruby made several trips to Cuba in the months preceding Kennedy's death "trying to make a deal to sell arms to Cuba and to try to make a deal to obtain illicit drugs through Cuba for smuggling into the United States.

"At the meeting with Castro, sale of guns and the drug deal were discussed along with removal of the President, an attempt on the President's life," Sturgis said.

FRANK STURGIS
Tells of Ruby visit

"I am not putting it all on Castro. Other governments knew of the plot to kill the president. There was an opportunity there for retaliation by certain foreign governments," he said.