Phila Bulletin
7/9/76

Castro Linked to JFK Plot

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

Sturgis, whose family lives in Philadelphia, said in a telephone interview yesterday that he had been assigned to investigate possible involvement of Cuban exiles in the Kennedy assassination.

Sturgis declined to say what agency had ordered the investigation and would not reveal his source for the information on the Havana meeting. Records have indicated that he was working for the CIA at about that time.

The investigation fialed to show any Cuban exile links to Kennedy's death, but produced evidence that Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and Ruby, who shot Oswald while Oswald was in police custody in Dallas, 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 said that 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 if the information reached the commission.

"I think the Warren Commission did a tremendous job with the evidence that was presented to it, but I feel that all the evidence was not presented to them. If there was a coverup, the White House ordered the coverup," Sturgis said.

Sturgis said the Havana meeting included Fidel 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.

"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.