Phila Inquirer 7/11/76

Ex-CIA operative says Ruby plotted with Castro to kill JFK

Associated Press

MIAMI — Jack Ruby, the bar-owner who killed Lee Harvey Oswald, had previously made several trips to Cuba and discussed "the removal" of President John F. Kennedy with Fidel Castro, a former intelligence operative contends.

Frank Sturgis, who once worked for the CIA and was later caught inside Democratic national headquarters at the burglary that opened the Watergate scandal, said that the Ruby trips were first reported a few months after Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

"I made a report in early 1964 that there was a meeting, that Jack Ruby did go to Havana several times, that a few months before the JFK assassination, Ruby was in Havana at a meeting with members of the Cuban heirarchy," Sturgis said in a telephone interview.

He said he was revealing the 14-year-old reports to counter "the leftist element in the country" that has said the CIA was involved in Kennedy's assassination.

Ruby was convicted of killing Oswald but won a new trial. He died of cancer in prison in 1967, before the second trial was held.

Sturgis said that Castro, Castro's brother Raul, revolutionist Che Guevera, "an Argentine woman who is believed to have been a Russian KGB agent" and several rebel Cuban officers met with Ruby, then a Dallas bar-owner.

"At this meeting, the discussion was the removal of the President, the elimination of the President of the United States," he said. "This would be to neutralize the U. S. government because of the threat of invasion" of Cuba by the U. S., Sturgis said.

Sturgis said he learned of the alleged meeting through sources that he would not identify. He said his sources included members of an anti-Castro Cuban underground organization in Miami and Havana.

"Associates of mine who were also connected with intelligence" had made the same report, he said, adding that they had gathered their information independently.

Sturgis said the reports were given to "certain American intelligence agencies, including the Senate Internal Security Committee." He would not say whether the CIA was among the agencies.

Sturgis added that the intelligence subcommittee of Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R., Pa.) had been given information about the reports. He would not say how the Schweiker panel obtained the information.