Jack Ruby's brother calls conspiracy claims untrue

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By WILLIAM DUNN
News Staff Writer

The brother of Jack Ruby has labeled as "absolutely false" charges by Watergate burglar and onetime CIA operative Frank Sturgis that Ruby was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Earl Ruby, of Birmingham, who owns and operates a Detroit dry cleaning business, says he is going to ask for "a complete investigation of Sturgis and this announcement to prove once and for all my brother was not involved."

Sturgis has claimed that Jack Ruby met in Havana with Fidel Castro 10 weeks before the murder of the President in Dallas to discuss "removal of the President" along with arms purchases for Cuba and smuggling of illicit drugs into the United States.

Assigned to investigate the possible involvement of Cuban exiles in the assassination, Sturgis said the investigation produced evidence that alleged Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, who shot and killed Oswald, "were involved in the same conspirary, along with other people."

Said Earl of the story, "I absolutely dispute it. The only time my brother was in Havana was before Castro took over Cuba."

Castro became premier Feb. 16, 1959.

"They said he was there many times in 1963. Absolutely not . . . "

Ruby quotes his sister Eva, who worked at Jack Ruby's Dallas nightclub, as saying that Jack Ruby was never in Cuba during 1963.

His sister, Mrs. Eva Turner, of Los Angeles, said she lived with her brother during that period and would know of his travels. She emphatically said, "My brother never left the country after 1959."

Tony Zoppi, a Las Vegas publicist and former Dallas reporter who knew Ruby from the nightclub beat, characterized Jack Ruby as "one of the most anti-Communist people I know. I can't believe that he would be involved in a plot to kill Kennedy. He worshipped him."

Ruby also dismissed Sturgis' charges that his brother had been involved with drugs and guns.

"He didn't even smoke," he said.

"He absolutely was not involved in those things."