

Betrayed

Twenty years after Pulitzer Prize-winning Jack Anderson began to investigate seriously the death of John F. Kennedy, and 25 years after JFK died, Anderson will present his conclusions in "American Expose: Who Murdered JFK?" at 8 tonight on KCOP (Channel 13).

Anderson believes there is compelling evidence that Fidel Castro was behind the assassination. According to Anderson,

"The story begins when Allen Dulles was head of the CIA and planning the Bay of Pigs (invasion) during the late '50s." They decided it would help if Castro were assassinated, Anderson said.

"The CIA chose the Mafia to do the job — they had the motive: Their gambling casinos had been closed by Castro. They also had the means: They had left behind a Cuban underworld still under their control. The CIA arranged it with the two godfathers, Sam Giancana and Santos Trafficante, the boss of the Cuban underworld. Six hit teams are sent all told, carefully chosen and directed. All six fail and disappear — yet these are professionals."

The CIA concluded there was a leak and traced it to Trafficante. His motive? He had "made a deal" with Castro when he left Cuba. "The CIA later learned that Castro then recruited Trafficante to kill Kennedy. As one of my sources put it, it satisfied Castro's Latin sense of irony. In the course of it, they needed a patsy. Lee Harvey Oswald was the perfect fall guy because he was a political crackpot who had defected to Russia, but he was also a Marine Corps sharpshooter."

Anderson believes it was Trafficante's intention to eliminate Oswald afterward. "But their scheme went awry because the police got to him first. Oswald ends up in the basement of a Dallas police station." Subsequently, Jack Ruby, "a hood," was hired to kill Oswald. Said Anderson, "He had to be under some great pressure" to do so.

Hollywood Freeway columnist Frank Swertlow is on a leave of absence.