

Cuban official: Gangsters,

REUTERS

HAVANA — A Cuban security official said in a television documentary shown Friday night that President John F. Kennedy's assassination was part of a wide-ranging conspiracy and that he was fired on by two Cuban counterrevolutionaries and three gangsters.

It was the first time that Cuba has presented such a theory, entering the long-time controversy over the circumstances of Kennedy's death and offering a rebuff to past

suggestions that Fidel Castro's government was implicated in the killing.

The Warren Commission investigation into the assassination said the president was killed by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, and that no evidence of a conspiracy could be found.

But Gen. Fabian Escalante Font, an Interior Ministry official, said Cuban investigations showed the plot against Kennedy was far-reaching.

"In reality it was a conspiracy of national proportions in which many people knew what was going to hap-

pen, while others took charge of pulling the trigger," Escalante said.

"According to investigations carried out, the shots fired in Dallas on November 22, 1963, numbered four to five from various positions," he added.

He said that "according to our investigations" people who participated in firing the shots included Leonard Patrick, David Yaras and Richard Gaines, who, he said, were members of Chicago organized crime syndicates, and Cuban exiles Eladio del Valle and Herminio Diaz Garcia.

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anti-Castro gunmen killed JFK

The documentary described del Valle as a onetime intelligence officer of former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista and Diaz Garcia as an aide to former Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo.

Escalante also listed names of people he said were conspiracy backers or masterminds and operational coordinators from organized crime, the CIA and Cuban counterrevolutionary circles.

He made the comments in the third part of a television documentary that sought to show the Kenne-

dy killing was the climax of a conspiracy that had also plotted numerous assassination attempts against President Fidel Castro in the early 1960s.

Directed by a Brazilian, Marco Antonio Cury, it drew on Cuban and US film archives, as well as interviews with Cuban security officials and former CIA agents. It also included interviews with two Cuban intelligence officers who infiltrated the CIA in the 1960s and who knew some of the people named as part of the plot.

In Friday's final part, it sought to show that frustration among Cuban counterrevolutionaries and organized crime with Kennedy's Cuba policy boiled over, and that disgruntled members of the US establishment played a role.

A Cuban exile link — in which rightist Cubans seeking Castro's downfall were outraged by Kennedy's policies toward Cuba after the abortive 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion by Cuban exiles — has long been cited as one possibility by conspiracy theorists.