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version of this same story, credited
to the NY Times but not to Crewdson.
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more detail.

A Report Links C.I.A. to Murder in U.S.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 — A Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is investigating the possibility that the Central Intelligence Agency was responsible for a hit-and-run murder in New Orleans in the late 1960's.

The spokesman for the C.I.A. emphatically denied that a premeditated murder had ever been ordered or carried out by C.I.A. officials within the United States.

Senator Frank Church, who heads the select panel, confirmed through a spokesman that his staff was "at work on this matter," but said that the results of the investigation would not be included in the committee's forthcoming report on C.I.A. assassination plots directed at foreign heads of state.

"We don't know as yet what weight to give to it," Senator Church, an Idaho Democrat, said of the information obtained by the committee. "We have not made a full assessment of the evidence."

Neither the name of the alleged victim nor any circumstances that might have provided such an action by the C.I.A. in New Orleans or elsewhere could be learned.

Report First of Kind

The report under investigation, while thus far uncorroborated, is the first known to have come to the attention of investigators suggesting that the C.I.A. had ever considered the use of assassination in this country.

Senator Church provided no details of the evidence obtained by the committee's staff, but the principal exhibit is understood to be a written statement from a former missionary that a C.I.A. official had suggested to him having participated in such an assassination.

The former missionary, Rev. Alden J. Stevenson, now a chaplain at the University of San Francisco, was unable in a recent interview to recall the name of the C.I.A. man who, he said, solicited his opinion about the ethics of a killing carried out under orders from agency higher-ups.

But Father Stevenson, a member of the Jesuit order, provided a detailed description of the man, including his involvement in intelligence-gathering flights over the Chinese mainland from a base at Hsinchu in Taiwan, where the man worked with the official

Intelligence Center is said that that death was killed a C.I.A. official, they identified as Robert McNamara, who had served with the agency in Washington and Las Vegas, as well as at Hsinchu.

Agency Officer

The C.I.A. spokesman dismissed reports of agency involvement in a domestic assassination as "a complete fabrication," but he did confirm that the agency had employed a one-legged man named Robert McNamara, now dead, in this country.

The spokesman said that Mr. McNamara's only domestic assignment was as a liaison officer in Las Vegas, where he had on Sept. 19, 1968,

Colonel New... includes Las Vegas... Robert McNamara... that he...

The C.I.A. spokesman described Mr. McNamara as a "special agent" and another source confirmed that the agency had employed a one-legged man named Robert McNamara in Las Vegas at the time.

According to the obituary printed in the Sept. 5, 1972, issue of The Las Vegas Sun, Mr. McNamara, who was then 46 years old, died of an unknown cause last winter; he and his family had been in Las Vegas for the last weeks.

The obituary said that the McNamaras had stopped in Las Vegas on the way to Taiwan, where Mr. McNamara, who was described as a World War II amputee, was to take an assignment as a civilian employee of the Air Force.

W. Eugene... Mr. McNamara's wife... sources said it still being... not im-

The spokesman, a former missionary, said that the man who had suggested to him having participated in such an assassination was a former missionary, Rev. Alden J. Stevenson, now a chaplain at the University of San Francisco, who was unable in a recent interview to recall the name of the C.I.A. man who, he said, solicited his opinion about the ethics of a killing carried out under orders from agency higher-ups.

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A 'Yes' Denial

The spokesman telephoned a few minutes later, however, to say that the C.I.A. would "flatly deny that Mr. McNamara was ever instructed to kill anyone or did carry out such

an assignment." He declined, however, to extend his denial to encompass the possibility that Mr. McNamara might have undertaken such an operation without the approval of higher authorities.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has compiled a report of 400 pages based on the evidence it has gathered in secret hearings concerning attempts by the C.I.A. on the lives of some foreign leaders, principally Fidel Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister.

Sources familiar with the report, which the agency officials have made available to the press, said that although it could not be said that the agency had ever considered assassination in this country, it was possible that the agency had considered such an operation in the past.

The sources said that the report contained evidence on projects of the late committee chairman, who had investigated some aspects of the C.I.A.'s activities, that an individual had been killed by the C.I.A. under such circumstances, but outside the United States.

Although the Senate report is understood to contain indications that more than one low-level intelligence operative met with a similar fate, none of the information thus far provided to the Church committee by the C.I.A. has concerned an officially sanctioned murder in New Orleans or elsewhere inside this country.

Father Stevenson, the former missionary whose letter to a member of Congress outlining his conversation with Mr. McNamara provided the impetus for the Senate committee's investigation, said in the recent interview that, as best he could recall, the discussion took place between 1959 and 1961.

The priest said that he had become acquainted with Mr. McNamara, a Roman Catholic, through his attendance at services the priest held at a chapel near the Hsinchu base, and that after a time the C.I.A. man invited him to dine with himself and his wife at their home in the C.I.A. compound at Hsinchu, in the hills north of Taipei.

Father Stevenson said that he had considered the invitation unusual, because the C.I.A. contingent working at Hsinchu was a tightly knit group that kept its own company, and that he accepted because he felt that the C.I.A. man had "something on his mind."

The man's wife, who, sources said, was also a C.I.A. employee, remained in Taipei after the meal, the priest said, and it was during the 50-mile drive

back to Hsinchu later that evening that the conversation about the assassination took place.

Father Stevenson emphasized that his discussion with the C.I.A. man did not constitute a formal confession, but rather was a conversation of conscience in which the man, at first, "just threw out this hypothetical case."

The problem he posed, the priest recalled, concerned the appropriate moral and ethical response to an order from higher authority "to eliminate a person as a danger to national security."

A Further Opinion

The man told him, Father Stevenson said, that he had previously discussed the same question with another priest, but wanted a further opinion. As the man provided more details about the "hypothetical" murder, the priest said, he became suspicious and asked him whether he had been "involved in something like this."

The man, he recalled, replied that he had been, and explained that he was troubled by the fact that he had relied on the judgment of his superiors in carrying out the killing, having known nothing about the victim or the C.I.A.'s reasons for wanting him dead.

Father Stevenson said that the C.I.A. man had told him he had simply received instructions one day to travel to a certain city and to disclose information to anyone, including his wife. Once there, the man said, he was told that he was to take part in an assassination in the New Orleans area with assistance from a C.I.A. employee.

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The owner of the building in which the apartment had been taken said that he had no records of tenants going back to 1960, and that the manager of the building in that period had since died.

Father Stevenson said that he remembered the C.I.A. man telling him that, as planning for the operation continued, his wife became progressively disturbed by his unexplained disappearance and finally insisted to the man's superior that she be told where he had gone and why.

The priest said that the man told him that, much to the displeasure of the C.I.A., he was flown home to reassure his wife of his safety before resuming the planning for the assassination.