

1. September

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Jack Anderson Column, "CIA Withheld
Data in JFK Probe"

1. The following comments are keyed to the two paragraphs mentioning alleged activities by John A. McCone immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy: (Mr. William G. Miller told me that this part of the article seemed to be the only potentially new information of interest to the SSCI, particularly Senator Baker.)

2. Mr. McCone telephoned Robert Kennedy at Hickory Hill as soon as McCone was given the news of the shooting in Dallas. McCone went to Hickory Hill and remained there for some time. The conversation was intermittent and personal. McCone stated that he never mentioned Castro, and there is nothing in his records to indicate otherwise.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

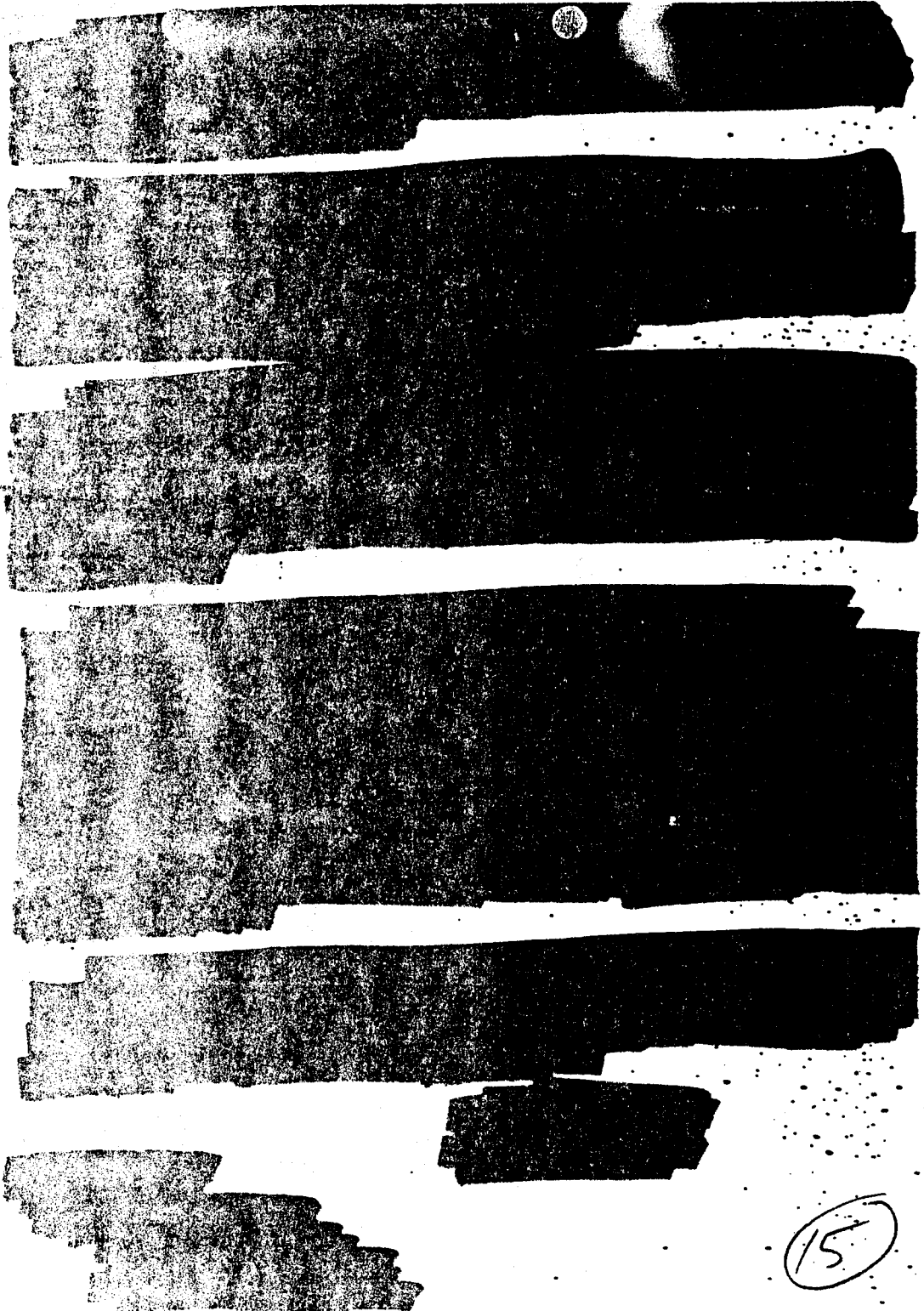
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

15

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



15

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

CIA Withheld Data in JFK Probe

10 v

John
I continue
working also
the matter
please do
OT

After President John F. Kennedy was struck down on Nov. 22, 1963, the Central Intelligence Agency received evidence suggesting that Cuban President Fidel Castro arranged the assassination to retaliate for attempts on his life.

Yet sources privy to the secret discussions at the highest levels of the government those hectic days now tell us that the CIA deliberately withheld the evidence from the Warren Commission investigating Kennedy's death.

Our sources cite two reasons for holding back this evidence. One was a refusal to cover up the secret that the CIA had enlisted Mafia mobsters to kill Kennedy.

There also was a legitimate concern that the Castro revelations might inflame the American people, whose anger could have turned into a terrible wrath that might have precipitated some rash action.

Only a few key people knew about the plot to assassinate Castro. One was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who was his brother's personal lawyer over the CIA. It has now been established that Robert Kennedy was briefed on May 7, 1962, about the attempt to use underworld killers to knock off Castro.

Two days later, Robert Kennedy cautioned the CIA not to go ahead with the assassination without consulting him. What Robert Kennedy told herd in the CIA, it must be assumed that he was not advised of subsequent assassination attempts. However, there is no corroboratory evidence of this.

Records now available show that Kennedy was informed FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover of the plot on May 10,

1962. Yet neither Kennedy nor Hoover later divulged this important information to the Warren Commission.

Of course, various CIA officials also knew about the assassination scheme. Not the least of them was the late CIA chief Allen W. Dulles, who approved the original plan. He later served on the Warren Commission, yet he sat silently throughout the investigation without mentioning the Cuban angle.

Within hours of President Kennedy's death, the U.S. embassy cabled information from Mexico City suggesting that the Cubans may have been behind the assassination. Our sources say that the CIA developed similar information in Washington.

The first person to reach Robert Kennedy's side after the shooting was CIA Director John A. McCone, who remained alone with the Attorney General at his McLean, Va., home for nearly three hours.

McCone swore to us that Castro's name was never mentioned during the three hours. But CIA records show that the next day McCone not only mentioned Castro to the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, but briefed him on the information from Mexico City.

Yet no one brought the Cuban connection to the attention of the Warren Commission. We were the first to get word of the anti-Castro plot to Chief Justice Earl Warren, the commission chairman, four years later.

We are now free to reveal our role in the drama. Two of our confidential sources, CIA agent William Harvey and mobster John Roselle, are dead. A third source, attorney Edward P. Morgan,

has waived the confidentiality we had promised him.

Morgan told us in January, 1967, about the CIA-Mafia assassination plot against Castro. He raised the possibility that the plot could have backfired against President Kennedy. There were suspicious circumstances, he pointed out, indicating that Castro may have learned of the attempts on his life and may have retaliated against Kennedy.

Morgan refused to identify his sources because it would have violated the attorney-client privilege. But he was an attorney of such stature that we didn't doubt his word. He had been chief inspector of the FBI. He had directed the historic congressional investigation of the Pearl Harbor bombing. Later, he ran the investigation into the excesses of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

We got Morgan's permission to write a cautious story. We confirmed the general outlines from a CIA source. Then on March 3, 1967, we wrote that Robert Kennedy may have approved an assassination plot, which then possibly backfired against his late brother.

The next day, according to records now available, Kennedy's secretary called for a copy of the May 7, 1962, memo, which summarized the briefing he had received on the assassination plot.

On March 7, 1967, we reported more details. "A reported CIA plan in 1962 to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro," we wrote, "... may have resulted in a counterplot by Castro to assassinate President Kennedy."

① Is this true
② who is he?

15

