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Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

CIA Withheld Data in IFK Pro

After President John F. Kennedy was struck down on Nov. 22, 1953, the Central Intelligence Agency received evidence suggesting that Cuban Premier Fide Castro arranged the assassitation in retaliation for attempts on his life.

Yet sources privy to the secret discussions at the highest levels of the CIA during those heatic 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 helding back this evidence. One was a resolve to cover up the secret that the CIA had enlisted Mafia mobiters to kill Castro.

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

Only a few key people knew about the CIA plot to assassinate Castro. One was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who was his brother's personal watchdog over the CIA. It has now been established that Robert Kennedy was briefed on May 7, 1992, about the attempt to use underworld billers to kneek off Castro.

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

Records now available show that Robert Kennedy informed FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover of the plot on May 10, 1962. Yet neither Kennedy nor Hoover later divulced 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 Commmission, 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. McCene, 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. CLA agent William Harvey and mobster John Rosselliere Grad. A third source, attorney Edward P. Mor

gan, has waived the confidentiality w

Morgan told us in January. 196 about the CIA-Malia assassination pk against Castro. He raised the possibility that the plot could have backfire against President Kennedy. The were suspicious circumstances, I pointed out, indicating that Cash may have learned of the attempts ohis life and may have retailate against Kennedy.

Morgan refused to identify to sources because it would have violete the attorney-client privilege. But it was an attorney of such stature the we didn't doubt his word like had like chief inspector of the EBL. He had a rected the historic congressional investigation of the Pearl Harbor bombin Later, he ran the investigation into it excesses of the late Sen. Joseph McC: thy.

We got Morgan's permission, write a cautious story. We confirme the general outlines from a CI source. Then on March 3, 1967, worde that Robert Kennedy "may have proved an assassination piot, which then possibly backfired against his la throther."

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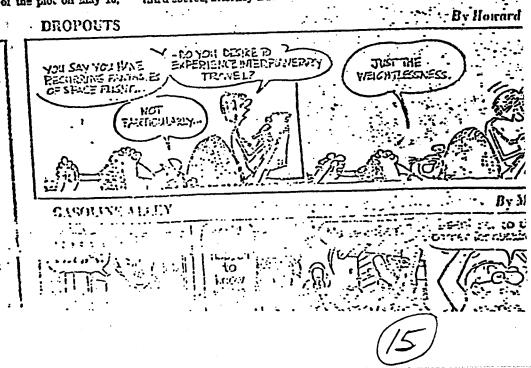
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September 15, 1976

NOTE FOR: DDCI



A recent Jack Anderson story referred to a November 1963 (?) CIA cable, the subject matter of which had some UK journalist observing Jack Ruby visiting Trafficante in jail. Is there such a cable? If so I would like to see it.

This is the same cable that Mike Madigan, Minority Counsel for the SSC, has asked for.

George Bush

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