

Castro Lists 24 Plots to Kill Him

By Norman Kempster
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Sen. George S. McGovern today made public a Cuban summary of 24 alleged plots to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro and other top Communist officials. The Cuban document linked most of the attempts to the CIA.

McGovern told a press conference he had "no way to verify these allegations." He said he obtained the summary personally from Castro during a visit to Havana this year.

McGovern said the material would be turned over to the Senate Select Intelligence Committee, headed by Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, to be investigated.

THE DOCUMENT describes three attempts on Castro's life in 1960 and 1961 prior to the Bay of Pigs invasion and 21 attempts following the Bay of Pigs, the latest in March 1971.

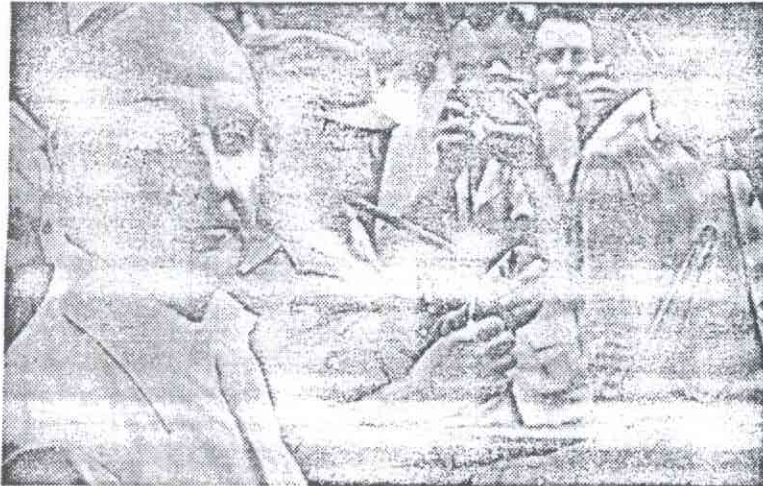
The 1971 attempt, which the Cubans said was made during Castro's visit to Marxist President Salvador Allende in Chile, appears to

have no direct link to the CIA except for an unsubstantiated assertion that the assassin acted "with the CIA, Chilean fascists and Cuban counter-revolutionaries."

The Cubans said the assassin was Jesus Dominguez Benitez, who posed as a Venezuelan newsmen and concealed his gun in a television camera.

According to the Cubans, Benitez had been arrested by the FBI in 1968 for terrorist activity in the United States and in 1970 he had participated in an unsuccessful attempt to infiltrate Cuba and had sought refuge at the Guantanamo Naval Base.

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—United Press International

Premier Castro taking Sen. McGovern on a jeep tour.

IN MOST of the 24 cases included in the summary, which McGovern said was not intended to be all-inclusive, individuals charged with attempted assassination were arrested by Cuban authorities.

The summary includes the names of a number of individuals identified by the Cubans as CIA agents. However, the document makes it appear that if they had connections with the CIA they were "contractors" rather than regular employees.

The Cubans said Adm. Arleigh Burke, then chief of naval operations, participated in passing instructions to assassins for an attempt on Castro's life in July 1961.

In that case, the Cubans said, instructions were passed by Burke and "CIA agents on Guantanamo." It said the weapons included "explosives, mortars, high-powered rifles and .30-caliber machine guns." Apparently the attempt never took place.

The Cuban summary includes allegations of plots stretching over four U.S. administrations, the first during the Eisenhower administration and the last during the Nixon administration.

McGOVERN, the unsuccessful Democratic presidential candidate against Nixon in 1972, said that al-

though he cannot vouch for the truth of the Cuban report, if the charges are true "the CIA has engaged in the most shocking, murderous, and un-American behavior against the leaders of a neighboring state."

"The Cubans link the CIA to a wide range of anti-Castro groups both inside Cuba and elsewhere," McGovern said. "They attribute to the CIA consistent efforts to consolidate counterrevolutionary organizations into such umbrella groups as the United Resistance, Union for United Revolutionaries, and anti-Communist civic resistance, and to create the impression of widespread opposition to Castro inside Cuba."

McGovern said the Cubans listed as targets, in addition to Castro, Deputy Prime Minister Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Defense Minister Raul Castro and Foreign Minister Raul Roa.

Most of the plots listed in the Cuban summary were broken up — often by the arrest of individuals charged with the conspiracies — before the actual assassination attempts could be carried out.

The summary did not include efforts by a Mafia group including mobsters Sam Giancana and Sam Rosselli to assassinate Castro. McGovern said the list was intended to include only allegations which had not previously been made public.

The Cuban summary said that in 1962 a group of Cuban anti-Communists, aided by the CIA, hatched a plan to kill foreign minister Roa and then wipe out other leaders attending his funeral.

The Cubans said that on Sept. 28, 1963, a group acting through a person they identified as CIA agent Pierre Owen Diaz de Ure planned to dynamite sewer pipes under the presidential

palace. The Cubans said de Ure was arrested and confessed working for the CIA for two years.

"THE MATERIAL supplied by the Cuban authorities obviously warrants further investigation by the appropriate committees in the Senate and House and by the executive branch," McGovern said. "Conclusions on CIA involvement are apparently based on confessions and circumstantial evidence."

McGovern noted that since the missile crisis of 1962 the official U.S. policy has been to discourage violence against the Castro government. If the Cuban allegations are true, McGovern said, it points to one of two conclusions: That official U.S. policy was untruthful or that the CIA acted on its own, perhaps in defiance of higher authority.