

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. J.H. Gale
- 1 - Mr. T.E. Bishop

TO : Mr. C. D. Brennan

DATE: 1/18/71

FROM : W. R. Wannall *WRW*

- 1 - Mr. C.D. Brennan
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. W.R. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. Nasca

SUBJECT: CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S INVOLVEMENT IN ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE CASTRO

~~TOP SECRET~~

- Tolson _____
- Sullivan _____
- Mohr _____
- DeLoach _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Tavel _____
- Walters _____
- Boyers _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

ASSASSINATION of John F. Kennedy

Memorandum concerns Jack Anderson's column in 1/18/71 "Washington Post," which indicates Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) made six attempts to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro.

Anderson claims CIA's first attempt began as part of Bay of Pigs operation (1961); after it failed sent five more assassination teams to Cuba; and among those privy to CIA conspiracy is suspicion, unsupported by Warren Commission's findings, that Castro became aware of assassination plot and somehow recruited Lee Harvey Oswald to retaliate against President Kennedy. With regard to first attempt, Anderson stated CIA enlisted Robert Maheu former FBI Agent, who recruited gambler John Roselli to arrange assassination.

CIA's involvement in Castro assassination plan first came to our attention in 1961. At that time, we conducted investigation of violation of Unauthorized Publication or use of Communications Statute by Arthur James Balletti, arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada, by local authorities on wire tapping charge. Our investigation determined this involved Maheu who stated coverage was instituted in behalf of CIA's efforts to obtain Cuban intelligence data through hoodlum element, including Sam Giancana. Maheu was in contact with Giancana through services of John Roselli another hoodlum. ~~TOP SECRET (U)~~

On 5/3/61, CIA advised it was utilizing Maheu as intermediary with Giancana relative to CIA's "dirty business" anti-Castro activities. On 5/22/61, we furnished facts to then Attorney General Kennedy. On 5/9/62, Kennedy stated he had issued orders that CIA should never undertake such steps again without first checking with Department of Justice. On 3/6/67, all information in our files concerning this matter was furnished to Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General.

VHN:emj
(8)

~~TOP SECRET~~

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Memorandum W. R. Wannall to Mr. C. D. Brennan
Re: Central Intelligence Agency's Involvement in
Attempts to Assassinate Castro

~~TOP SECRET~~

In February, 1967, Secret Service advised columnist Drew Pearson contacted former Chief Justice Warren concerning information in possession of Attorney Edward P. Morgan, former Bureau Inspector. Morgan alleged former Attorney General Kennedy organized group to kill Castro. Subsequently, after Castro learned of plot, he decided to utilize same procedure to kill President Kennedy and hired Oswald to do the job. On 3/17/67, White House requested Bureau interview Morgan concerning assassination of President Kennedy.

Morgan was interviewed on 3/20/67. Due to attorney-client relationship, Morgan would not identify persons who furnished information concerning assassination. Morgan alleged his clients were used by a Government Agency (obviously CIA) to plot assassination of Castro and that Castro learned of plot and thereafter dispatched teams of assassins to U. S. to assassinate President Kennedy. He stated that the information attributed to Drew Pearson probably arose as a result of comments Morgan made suggesting that Lee Harvey Oswald "was not the only person involved" in the assassination of President Kennedy. Morgan furnished no information to the effect Castro hired Oswald to assassinate Kennedy and we developed no such information during our extensive investigation of the Kennedy assassination. Results of our interview with Morgan together with the information we previously had concerning CIA's involvement in plot to assassinate Castro, was furnished White House, Attorney General, and Secret Service on 3/22/67.

We have no information concerning the other five CIA alleged assassination plots against Castro.

ACTION:

For information.

WRR

Oswald

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Checkmark]

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~~TOP SECRET~~