

Reports: Castro feared invasion

He put troops on alert. On television, he denounced allegations that Lee Harvey Oswald was a supporter.

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WASHINGTON — An "emotional and uneasy" Fidel Castro mobilized his armed forces and went on Cuban national television after President John F. Kennedy's assassination out of fear the United States would blame him and invade in re-

taliation, government documents say.

The National Security Agency, in declassified documents released yesterday, reported that Castro feared the United States would use the Kennedy assassination as an excuse to oust his communist government.

Lee Harvey Oswald, arrested for Kennedy's killing, had been to the Soviet Union and was active in a pro-Castro group in the United States.

The documents quoted an unnamed American ambassador as believing that Cuba and the Soviet Union were behind Kennedy's killing. Castro tried to counter with allegations that Oswald really was a spy for the CIA or FBI.

"This caused Castro to wonder

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after Kennedy assassination

whether the assassin was ... the mere instrument of a monstrous plot of American militarists, who, by eliminating Kennedy, would put [President Lyndon B.] Johnson in a position from which there would be only one way out: to drain off anti-Cuba hysteria by an action of declared war," the National Security Agency reported.

In another NSA report, Cuban officials suggested that "ultrarevolutionary circles" in the United States

engineered the assassination because they believed Kennedy had failed to strongly confront Havana.

"They [the Cuban officials] are concerned with the anti-Cuban and anti-Soviet past which will exert a substantial influence on the foreign and domestic policy of the USA," the report said.

Castro responded to Kennedy's death by quickly going on television to discuss the assassination and to dispute allegations that Oswald

was a communist supporter of Cuba.

In addition, Cuban forces were put on alert and shifted to strategic positions around Havana and the northern coast.

Three days after the assassination, the Cuban Foreign Ministry continued to argue that Havana was not involved. In a news release, the ministry reported that the Cuban government had rejected Oswald's request for a visa the previous September.