

# Senate Panel to Ask Nixon if He Knows of Plots Against Castro

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 8—Sen-

ator Frank Church, Democrat

of Idaho, who is chairman of

the Senate Select Committee

on Intelligence, said today that

former President Richard M.

Nixon would be asked if he

had any evidence regarding

plots to assassinate Premier

Castro of Cuba. Such plots

allegedly began in the last

year of the Eisenhower Ad-

ministration, when Mr. Nixon

was Vice President.

Senator Church told reporters

that Mr. Nixon had been "ac-

tion officer for the Eisenhower

Administration in connection

with the preparations for the

Bay of Pigs, and that as a

result the former President

might have knowledge of plans

to kill Mr. Castro.

He said that committee staff

members would get in touch

with Mr. Nixon's lawyers in

an effort to find out if he

had new evidence.

"The committee has discussed

this matter, and we are now

in the process of approaching

Mr. Nixon and his attorney.

Mr. Church said, "I simply

don't want to blow this up

out of context, because at this

time we have no reason to

believe that this testimony

will be very important in

connection with the assassina-

tion issue.

"However, we're trying to

touch every possibility. We

don't want to overlook any

possibility, and for that reason

we'll take the necessary pre-

cautions where Mr. Nixon is

concerned."

Mr. Church's reference to

"precautions" appeared to

mean that the committee did

not want to issue its final

report on C.I.A. assassina-

tion plots without having made

an effort to get all possible

evidence.

Authoritative intelligence

sources and numerous press

reports have said that plots

to kill Mr. Castro and Gen-

eralissimo Rafael Leonidas

Trujillo, then the Dominican Re-

public's strongman, were con-

ceived in the last year of the

Eisenhower Administration.

The committee plans to ques-

tion several witnesses about

what was done in 1959 and

1960.

For instance, the committee

has called Gordon Gray to ap-

pear tomorrow. He was Pres-

ident Eisenhower's Special

Assistant for Foreign Affairs

and represented Mr. Eisen-

hower at the National Security

Council's Special Group, which

controlled covert activities.

The Senate committee has

also called Thomas Parrott, a

former C.I.A. officer who was

secretary of the Special Group.

The scope of Mr. Nixon's

knowledge of the plans against

Cuba is not publicly known.

Mr. Church said today "some

of the action officer for the Eis-

enhower Administration, but did

not give details.

E. Howard Hunt Jr., a Water-

gate burglar and former C.I.A.

officer, said in a book on the

Bay of Pigs that Mr. Nixon

was the action officer. Mr. Nixon

discussed his role in his

book "Six Chicks," though he

did not use the term "action

officer."

He said that he had been

hunting in his pre-election

debates with then Senator John

F. Kennedy because he knew

of covert operations being

planned against Cuba that he

said he chose not to compro-

mise. Mr. Kennedy was charging

at the time that the Eisenhower

Administration had not taken

enough line against the

Cuban leader.

In the book, Mr. Nixon said

that after a three-hour meeting

with Mr. Castro in April, 1959,

he became convinced that Mr.

Castro was either a Communist

or "naive." He said that

then wrote a secret memoran-

du that was sent to the C.I.A.,

the State Department and the

White House urging that United

States foreign policy be tough-

ened against Mr. Castro.

At first, Mr. Nixon said in

the book, this was opposed

by many in the Government

but by early 1960 a secret

order was issued to arm and

refugees in the Cuban

invasion of Latin-

American countries, Mr. Nixon

said that to protect the secrecy

of this operation he did not

use his knowledge of it in

the debates against Mr. Ken-

edy. The plans evolved into the

in April, 1961.

Herbert J. Miller, Mr. Nixon's

lawyer, issued a statement

saying that he had had pre-

liminary contact with the com-

mittee staff, but that no formal

request had been received. He

declined to speculate whether

the former President, who now

lives in San Clemente, Calif.,

would cooperate with the com-

mittee.

Mr. Church said that there

was a "very real possibility"

the committee would also call

Mr. Nixon as a witness on

other matters in its investiga-

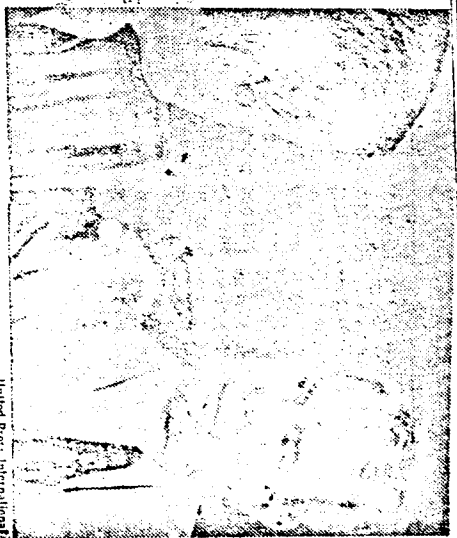
tion of the United States intel-

ligence community.

President Church told reporters that Mr. Nixon had been "action officer for the Eisenhower Administration in connection with the preparations for the Bay of Pigs, and that as a result the former President might have knowledge of plans to kill Mr. Castro. He said that committee staff members would get in touch with Mr. Nixon's lawyers in an effort to find out if he had new evidence.

"The committee has discussed this matter, and we are now in the process of approaching Mr. Nixon and his attorney. Mr. Church said, 'I simply don't want to blow this up out of context, because at this time we have no reason to believe that this testimony will be very important in connection with the assassination issue. However, we're trying to touch every possibility. We don't want to overlook any possibility, and for that reason we'll take the necessary precautions where Mr. Nixon is concerned.' Mr. Church's reference to 'precautions' appeared to mean that the committee did not want to issue its final report on C.I.A. assassination plots without having made an effort to get all possible evidence.

Authoritative intelligence sources and numerous press reports have said that plots to kill Mr. Castro and Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, then the Dominican Republic's strongman, were conceived in the last year of the Eisenhower Administration. The committee plans to question several witnesses about what was done in 1959 and 1960. For instance, the committee has called Gordon Gray to appear tomorrow. He was President Eisenhower's Special Assistant for Foreign Affairs and represented Mr. Eisenhower at the National Security Council's Special Group, which controlled covert activities. The Senate committee has also called Thomas Parrott, a former C.I.A. officer who was secretary of the Special Group. The scope of Mr. Nixon's knowledge of the plans against Cuba is not publicly known. Mr. Church said today "some of the action officer for the Eisenhower Administration, but did not give details. E. Howard Hunt Jr., a Watergate burglar and former C.I.A. officer, said in a book on the Bay of Pigs that Mr. Nixon was the action officer. Mr. Nixon discussed his role in his book 'Six Chicks,' though he did not use the term 'action officer.' He said that he had been hunting in his pre-election debates with then Senator John F. Kennedy because he knew of covert operations being planned against Cuba that he said he chose not to compromise. Mr. Kennedy was charging at the time that the Eisenhower Administration had not taken enough line against the Cuban leader. In the book, Mr. Nixon said that after a three-hour meeting with Mr. Castro in April, 1959, he became convinced that Mr. Castro was either a Communist or 'naive.' He said that then wrote a secret memorandum that was sent to the C.I.A., the State Department and the White House urging that United States foreign policy be toughened against Mr. Castro. At first, Mr. Nixon said in the book, this was opposed by many in the Government but by early 1960 a secret order was issued to arm and refugees in the Cuban invasion of Latin-American countries, Mr. Nixon said that to protect the secrecy of this operation he did not use his knowledge of it in the debates against Mr. Kennedy. The plans evolved into the



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Frank Church, left, head of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, talking yesterday with Edward G. Lansdale, a retired major general, who has said his remarks about Premier Fidel Castro were distorted. Mr. Church said yesterday his committee would ask Richard M. Nixon about possible plots against Mr. Castro.