

Birch faction plotted against Rocky

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CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)— "Okay. We're taking Rockefeller out, all right, on the second, third or fourth," Robert A. Dufala told undercover Secret Service agents in a conversation monitored last June, the government charged Thursday.

An 80-minute tape recording of a meeting between Dufala and agents Michael Maddaloni and Margaret Flanagan last June 11 was played in the third day of Dufala's trial on a charge of threatening to kill then-Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller with a cyanide bullet on July 2, 3 or 4.

In another part of the recording, Dufala tells the agents he knows an FBI agent in Washington who "is as enthusiastic as anybody" about a supposed plot by a supersecret faction of the John Birch Society to kill Rockefeller, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau and U. N. Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan.

Dufala, 39, a day care school owner from Williamstown, is charged with making the threat to the two agents three days after he was defeated in the June 8 primary election for the GOP congressional nomination in the 2nd Congressional District.

The government recording was made in Dufala's home a few days after Robert Somers, an unemployed hotel detective who introduced Maddaloni to Dufala as a veteran assassin who could obtain weapons and devise a plan for the alleged plot, the prosecution said.

After meeting with Dufala May 28 in a Vineland pizza parlor, Maddaloni went

to Dufala's house with agent Flanagan to present their plans, the government said.

In the recording, Maddaloni asks Dufala to review the scheme with George Heaps, a Dufala campaign leader, who had just arrived.

"We can call it what it is," Maddaloni suggests.

"Okay. We're taking Rockefeller out, all right, on the second, third or fourth," Dufala replies in the recording.

"Who's that?" Heaps says. "Oh, count me out on that."

"Okay, George," Dufala says.

Heaps, who left shortly after, tells the three as he backed out the front door: "Yeah, I do so much. I work in campaigns, but I draw the line there, you know."

Maddaloni dominates the recording, outlining a general plan to have himself, Flanagan, Dufala and five others kill Rockefeller in Philadelphia.

The plan, which Maddaloni said would cost \$2,650.50, included hand grenades, smoke bombs, automatic weapons fire and a sniper he identifies only as "Billy."

Maddaloni testified he tried to have "Billy," another Secret Service agent, join the plot so federal authorities would have control over the man who was to shoot Rockefeller. On a number of occasions in the tape, Maddaloni speaks highly of Billy's ability, apparently convincing Dufala there is no one better for the job.

Maddaloni testified he first brought up Rockefeller's name because Dufala told him the Vice President was the prime

target of a South Jersey-Philadelphia "hit team" Dufala was leading.

"Well, look," Maddaloni asks, "is it more important that we kill Rockefeller than we kill Kissinger? Let's make this shot the best shot."

"Yes," Dufala replied. "Well, Rockefeller is, no doubt, more important."

At one point in the recording, Dufala tows with the idea of inviting a friend who is an FBI agent in Washington to join the developing plot.