

*In his book & at
best dubious*

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NAME Phillipe Thyron de Vosjoli Date 5/9/78 Time _____

Address 24th Avenue Place at his residence
Lighthouse Point, Florida

Interview: SENSITIVE

Subject, interviewed on May 9, 1978 by the writer at his residence, 24th Avenue, Lighthouse Point, Florida, had been Chief of Intelligence in the United States for France since 1950. In this capacity he had developed a number of agents inside Cuba and had been instrumental in informing Director John McCone of the CIA about the placement of Russian offensive missiles inside Cuba. This was the first hard information which the United States had on this subject. Subject represented the Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionage (SDECE). It is comparable to our CIA.

While he was unable to furnish any up-to-date information about Cuba or the attitude of Cuban leaders towards the JFK assassination, the subject did tell me some things about his relationship with the CIA which are relevant.

He said that SDECE had an "action" group, which among other things, was involved with political assassination. Some time between 1959 and 1961 representatives of French Intelligence came to Washington and met with the CIA. They discussed the

Interviewer *James P. Kelly*
(Signature)
James P. Kelly
(Typed)

Date Transcribed May 16, 1978

elimination of Castro. The French said in effect, "Look why don't you let us handle this for you. We have experts who can kill Castro without it being traced back to you and your problems with him will be over." Subject says the CIA politely refused.* When he read later about the CIA-Mafia tie in attempting to assassinate Castro he was appalled at the stupidity and amateurishness of it. Questioned on this he stated that the only logic he could see in such a relationship was if the CIA had "other" dealings of a sinister nature with the same Mafia types which they were looking to conceal.

At another time, which coincided with the period when he was replaced by Paris as Chief of Intelligence in Washington subject states that he was in New York City...about three days before Kennedy was shot in Dallas.

He had a mail drop at 555 Fifth Avenue as a precaution. While picking up his mail one day he spotted the French Chief of Station for New York, a Monsieur Herve, walking along Fifth Avenue with a Colonel Georges de Lannurian, whom he recognized as a member of SDECE and whom subject also knew was a Soviet agent planted in the French Services. He was intrigued what the Colonel was doing in the United States and why he was obviously having a clandestine meeting in New York, so he followed them. The Colonel went to the Harvard Club on West 44th Street, and subject states that he had lunch there with a group of right wing extremists from Texas.

* Subject told the writer that the French Chancery in Havana was only two doors from the home of Celia Sanchez, who was Castro's mistress. "Fidel used to come there alone in his jeep to see her. It would have been easy!" he said.

It was not until after the President was assassinated in Dallas that the possible significance of this meeting became apparent to the subject, but he has never discussed his suspicions with anyone until now. He was under considerable duress in late 1963 because of upheavals in his own service.

I asked the subject if he would be willing to testify under oath, if necessary, about these things and he assured me that while reluctant to "surface" over this issue he would agree to do so.

The Colonel de Lannurian he spoke about had a history of contacts with the Soviets which goes back to the period just after World War II when the Soviets arranged his escape from Slovakia. He was one of the people whom the Russian defector "Martel" told the CIA about in early 1962. The Colonel is still alive and living near Rennes, France.