

Exiles Are Worried

By Virginia Prewett



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THINLY veiled hints that the current New Orleans investigation into President Kennedy's assassination is aimed at Cuban exiles has created understandable nervousness in the exile community. One Latin American has even anxiously asked me if the American people will turn against all Latin Americans if Cubans are arrested in the case.

The answer is that whoever arrests anybody in the Kennedy assassination had better have proof that can stand assaults even stronger than those launched against the Warren Commission's credibility.

Even so the American public's already far-stretched credulity may snap altogether if attempts are made to blame the Dallas murder on anti-Castro Cubans.

The picture of Lee Harvey Oswald, the half-baked Marxist-Leninist, co-operating with anti-Castro Cubans in such a plot would be excessively hard to credit. If such could be proved, the most sensible explanation would be that Oswald was indeed a communist and/or Castroite agent who involved the anti-Castro Cubans to destroy their position before the world.

In this writer's view, the American people would be very skeptical of almost any sudden "solution" of the Kennedy murder. If the National Council of Churches and those latter-day symbols of defiance of the Establishment, our student organizations, can have

had C.I.A. links all along, then what's to prevent the promised revelations of a Louisiana prosecutor from being just another charade staged for international consumption?

The theory that anti-Castro Cubans may have wanted to kill Kennedy because of the Bay of Pigs failure conveniently leaves out a salient fact in that tragedy — that John Kennedy had a greater motive than anybody living to want to see that mistake rectified. He urgently needed Cuba to be free when he faced the U.S. electorate again.

Indeed, in December, 1962, when Kennedy welcomed the ransomed Bay of Pigs prisoners in Miami, he said categorically: "I will return your battle-standard to you in a Free Havana."

Any objective reading of John F. Kennedy's short life reveals how deeply the Bay of Pigs fiasco affected him. The New York Times' James Reston put it in the record that after Mr. Kennedy received fairly cavalier treatment from Khrushchev in their meeting after the Cuban tragedy, Mr. Kennedy said, "I'll show him who I am" — and ordered 12,000 U.S. troops into Vietnam. This was a key escalation, since only a few thousand "advisers" had been there before.

The missile crisis of 1962, when Mr. Kennedy's order to blockade Cuba brought the world to the eyelash edge of nuclear war, stemmed in large part from the same motivation.

If there is any logic at all in mankind's affairs, then John F. Kennedy was the best hope the anti-Cubans had for their country to become free of Castro.