

Probers Get Tape Of Castro

N.Y. Times News Service

Fidel Castro, in a tape recording to be played before hearings of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, has denied any complicity in the death of President John F. Kennedy, congressional sources said yesterday.

According to these sources, Castro has supplied the committee with a tape recording in which he also denies a report Lee Harvey Oswald, the man accused of killing Kennedy, had sought to become a secret agent for Cuba and had once, in the presence of Cuban officials, threatened to kill Kennedy.

The Cuban premier's tape-recorded voice will be part of 17 days of testimony and evidence about John F. Kennedy's death to be put before the public by the House committee at hearings beginning Wednesday.

In interviews, congressional sources have disclosed the following details about the hearings, which will be the first government examination of Kennedy's death since the Warren Commission filed its report in 1964:

— The committee does not have sufficient evidence to upset the Warren

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Commission's conclusion that Oswald, a former Marine who defected to the Soviet Union, killed President Kennedy. However, it will raise several indications that he may have had associates or assistants.

— It will present evidence there may have been a fourth shot fired at Kennedy in Dallas. It is also working to determine whether the evidence of the shot means there was more than one assassin. The Warren Commission concluded three shots were fired, all of them by Oswald.

— The committee will present the results of a neutron test showing that a bullet fired at General Edwin Walker, the outspoken segregationist, several months before Kennedy's death came from the same type of ammunition that killed Kennedy. This information is regarded as crucial because it would indicate that Oswald may have had a psychotic desire to kill powerful men as opposed to a particular assignment to kill Kennedy.

— The committee will present public testimony by Yuri Nosenko, a former agent in the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service. Nosenko was the mainstay of a conclusion by the Central Intelligence Agency that the Russians took no part in Kennedy's murder.

The public hearings will be conducted on weekdays from Wednesday through Sept. 28. They are expected to be an often emotional reliving of Kennedy's time.

President Kennedy, riding through Dallas in an open car with his wife Jacqueline and John B. Connally, then the governor of Texas, was shot to death from ambush in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963. One hour after Kennedy was killed, J.D. Tippit, a Dallas police officer, was shot to death.

Oswald, 24, was arrested and interrogated for nearly 48 hours by the Dallas police, and as the police attempted to move him from their headquarters to the county jail, he was shot to death by Jack Ruby.

Ruby, who later died in prison, was a Dallas nightclub owner, police buff and associate of organized crime figures.

The House committee was created nearly two years ago to try to find out all the facts in the case, but some of its staff members acknowledge their work may create as many new suspicions as it lays old ones to rest.

The committee is expected to invite to the witness seat former President Gerald Ford, who was a member of the Warren Commission; Marina Oswald, the suspected assassin's widow; Earl Ruby, Jack Ruby's brother;

Nicholas Katzenbach, the former attorney general, and Richard Helms, the former director of the CIA.

In addition the committee is expected to ask William Webster, the present FBI director, and Admiral Stansfield Turner, chief of the CIA, to testify.

The committee's problem is more with dead witnesses than with the living. A list of key witnesses who have died has been a barrier to reconstructing the murder case.

Oswald is dead, Ruby is dead, J. Edgar Hoover, then director of the FBI, is dead. Allen Dulles, head of the CIA for nearly a decade before the assassination, is dead. And so are most members of a CIA plot to use the Mafia to kill Castro.

It is to this last area the committee has been devoting some of its heaviest investigative resources. It has followed up allegations that Castro, angered because he had learned the CIA was trying to kill him, launched a counterplot against Kennedy.

The committee is expected to spend one entire hearing session delving into Oswald's experience as a defector from the United States in the Soviet Union in the early 1960s. As part of that material, the committee will present the testimony of the former

KGB man, Nosenko, who claimed to be Oswald's control agent at Minsk, a Russian city.

For security reasons, Nosenko's face and voice will be completely disguised, congressional sources said. However, Nosenko is expected to tell the same story he has related in the past: His story maintains the Soviets regarded Oswald as unstable and never attempted to recruit him for intelligence work.

It was Nosenko's testimony, many reports have suggested, that resulted in the CIA and the Warren Commission ruling out Oswald as a tool in a Soviet intelligence plot.

The committee is also expected to question Helms, who headed the CIA after 1966 and was in charge of its operations sections during the Warren Commission period, about how he viewed the validity of the Nosenko testimony.

The committee has set aside the last week of September to investigate the many conspiracy theories about Kennedy's death. However, if it establishes a fourth shot was fired from a direction and in a time sequence that made it impossible for Oswald to have fired it, the door will be wide open to the question of conspiracy.

In some areas of suspicion, like the case of the "umbrella man," the committee investigators believe they have been able to put the basic allegation to rest. In the famous Abraham Zapruder film of Kennedy's death, there appears to be a figure in the crowd who raises a black umbrella, opens it, closes it and lowers it. Several critics of the Warren Commission's findings have suggested this action may have been a signal to shoot the President, since there was no other clear need for an umbrella on the sunny, 68-degree morning that Kennedy was shot.

Committee investigators say they found the man who was there with the umbrella and that he told them he had come to the parade to protest actions of Joseph P. Kennedy, the President's father. The elder Kennedy was United States ambassador to England prior to World War II and had supported British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in the consummation of what was called the Munich Pact.

"He was raising and lowering the umbrella because that, to him, was a symbol of Neville Chamberlain and the appeasement of Hitler," one investigator reported.