

Excerpts from speech given by Fidel Castro on Cuban television and radio
on Saturday night 11/23/63 (unofficial translation) (Meagher 3/7/67)

...These events occur precisely at a moment when Kennedy was being severely attacked by those who considered his Cuban policy to be weak. It could not be us, but only the enemies of the Revolution and the enemies in general of a more moderate policy, a less warlike policy, the enemies of a policy like this who might be interested in the death of President Kennedy, the only ones who perhaps could have received the news of Kennedy's death with satisfaction.

A few days ago an incident drew my attention. This was while the Inter-American Press Association Conference was taking place. It was a scandal...they made long tirades...against the speech delivered by Kennedy in Florida...(which) disappointed a number of persons who favor a more aggressive policy against Cuba. It was a disappointment for the counter-revolutionary elements, and it was a disappointment for the war-mongering elements in the United States.

And so, a series of cables. Here: "Miami, Florida--The Cuban exiles waited tonight in vain for a firm promise from President Kennedy to take energetic measures against the communist regime of Fidel Castro."

It says, "They waited tonight, in vain, for a firm promise..." They listened when the President said: "We in the ~~my~~ hemisphere should use all means at our disposal to prevent the establishment of another Cuba ..." that is, they did not accept (what) he said...because they thought that it carried with it the idea of accepting one Cuba. "Many exiles had hopes of more vigorous statements to liberate Cuba from communism" ...~~they heard criticism because of what they described~~ they heard criticism because of what they described as a weak U.S. policy towards Cuba.

Jose Ignacio Rivero, Editor-in-exile of the Diario de la Marina, the oldest Havana newspaper...and Emilio Nunez Portuondo, former President of the UN Security Council, called for more-positive action by the United States.

Rivero, member of the Inter-American Press Association, where Kennedy spoke, expressed his doubts over a sinister intrigue..."He said in the meeting that the weak U.S. policy towards Cuba...is an international shame." This was said by Ignacio Rivero, this one from Diario de la Marina, who...is an ultra-ultra, and who has to be linked to the ultra-ultra elements in the United States... Notice the extent to which irritation against the U.S. Government and the policy of President Kennedy had reached...

"Miami Beach--Augustin Navarro of El Espejo of Mexico felt that the speech was extremely weak..." He added that it was necessary to rescue Cuba under Fidel Castro from communism and not to maintain the status quo. They are speaking against any coexistence. "Other Cuban newspaper owners in exile made similar statements."

A series of cables began to arrive..."New York, November 20th, UPI-- The Daily News editorial stated that...Kennedy now refuses to allow Cuban exiles to launch attacks against Cuba from U.S. territory" the paper said "and in fact uses U.S. naval and air power to maintain Castro in power."

See what some militarists think; see what some ultra-right people think, and consider whether there is a big difference between that way of thinking, and assassinating a President...

So, there was observed a current of unanimous criticism against what the ultra-reactionary sectors considered a weak policy toward Cuba. And that is how the people think...Julio Mexquita Ciro--an utterly shameless reactionary (from Brazil)...was in favor of collective action, armed collective action by the hemisphere against Cuba...

And it is very strange that in these days, on the eve of the assassination of Kennedy, a coincidence, as never before, has been noted in the opinions of the ultra-reactionary sectors within and without the United States. The campaign carried out at the IAPA against Kennedy's policy; the coincidence in the unanimous and aggressive opinions in relations to a series of questions (about) Kennedy's international policy...

And the, finally, there is something very interesting--really very interesting and curious which drew my attention when I read it. That is why I remembered it and looked for the papers. It says: "The third editor to express his opinion was Sergio Carbo"...Carbo...is Director of the Executive Council of the Inter-American Press Association ...an important post in reactionary intellectual circles...his statement ends (and this is what drew my attention)...by saying: "I believe that a coming serious event will oblige Washington to change its policy of peaceful coexistence." What does this mean? What did this gentleman mean when he said three days before the assassination...in a cable...from Associated Press, dated November 19th, AP number 254, Miami Beach..."I believe that a coming serious event will oblige Washington to change its policy of peaceful coexistence"?

What does this mean, three days before the murder of President Kennedy? Because when I read this cable it caught my attention, it intrigued me, it seemed strange to me. Was there perhaps some sort of understanding? Was there perhaps some kind of plot? Was there perhaps in those reactionary circles, where the so-called weak policy of Kennedy toward Cuba was under attack, where the policy of civil rights was under attack--was there perhaps in certain civilian and military ultra-reactionary circles in the United States a plot against President Kennedy's life?...

Who can benefit from this...from this murder, if not the worst reaction(aries), the worst elements of U.S. society? Who could be the only ones interested in this murder? Could it be a real leftist, a leftist fanatic, at a moment when tensions had lessened...when McCarthyism was being left behind, or was at least more moderate, at a moment when a nuclear test ban treaty is signed, at a moment when speeches described as weak with respect to Cuba were being made? ...