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AM-JFK-LBJ 1-18

BY DONALD LAMBRO

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE FBI INFORMED THE JOHNSON WHITE HOUSE, AND PRESUMABLY LYNDON B. JOHNSON HIMSELF, ABOUT A CIA-MAFIA PLOT TO ASSASSINATE FIDEL CASTRO YEARS BEFORE THAT PLOT WAS DISCLOSED BY SENATE INVESTIGATORS, AN FBI MEMO REVEALED WEDNESDAY.

THE FBI MEMO ALSO SAID JOHNSON BELIEVED THE CIA "HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH" JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION IN 1963.

INITIAL READINGS OF THE THE VOLUMINOUS KENNEDY ASSASSINATION DOCUMENTS RELEASED WEDNESDAY DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE BUREAU EVER PASSED ITS CASTRO MURDER PLOT INFORMATION ALONG TO THE WARREN COMMISSION.

IT HAS BEEN WIDELY SUPPOSED THE COMMISSION KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE DEATH PLOTS AND THEREFOR NOTHING ABOUT THE REVENGE MOTIVE THEY MIGHT HAVE GIVEN CASTRO, THE CUBAN LEADER, TO KILL KENNEDY.

INCLUDED IN THE NEWLY RELEASED FILES WAS AN APRIL 4, 1967, FBI MEMO ON THE PLOTS TO KILL CASTRO.

IT SAID J. EDGAR HOOVER "HAD SENT OVER TO THE WHITE HOUSE SOME WEEKS BACK ALL THE INFORMATION IN OUR POSSESSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIA'S ATTEMPTS TO USE FORMER AGENT ROBERT MAHEU AND HIS PRIVATE DETECTIVE OUTFIT IN CONTACTS WITH SAM GIANCANA AND OTHER HOODLUMS, RELATIVE TO FOSTERING A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE CASTRO."

THE LATE GIANCANA WAS REPUTED TO BE THE HEAD OF A MAFIA FAMILY IN CHICAGO. THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REPORTED IN 1976 THAT THE CIA SOUGHT THE HELP OF GIANCANA AND OTHER MAFIA FIGURES IN A PLAN TO KILL CASTRO IN THE EARLY 1960S, WHEN KENNEDY WAS STILL PRESIDENT.

THE FBI MEMO RELEASED WEDNESDAY WAS WRITTEN BY HOOVER AIDE CARTHA DELCACH TO CLYDE TOLSON, THE LATE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU.

DELCACH SAID LBJ'S TOP ASSISTANT, MARVIN WATSON, "CALLED ME LATE LAST NIGHT AND STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD TOLD HIM, IN AN OFF MOMENT, THAT HE WAS NOW CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS A PLOT IN CONNECTION WITH THE (KENNEDY) ASSASSINATION.

"WATSON STATED THE PRESIDENT FELT THAT THE CIA HAD HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS PLOT."

WHEN WATSON ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION "IN THIS CONNECTION," DELCACH SAID HE HAD ALREADY SENT THE WHITE HOUSE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASTRO ASSASSINATION PLOT.

"WATSON ... REMEMBERED OUR MEMORANDUM IN THIS REGARD," DELCACH SAID.

HE QUOTED WATSON AS SAYING, "IF WE HAD ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD BY ALL MEANS FORWARD IT TO THE WHITE HOUSE."

SWORN SENATE TESTIMONY LAST YEAR ALLEGED THAT MAHEU, A FORMER AIDE TO THE LATE HOWARD HUGHES, HELPED LINE UP MOBSTERS GIANCANA AND JOHN ROSSELLI IN A CIA-LED PLOT TO "ELIMINATE" CASTRO.

BOTH GIANCANA AND ROSSELLI WERE LATER MURDERED IN GANGLAND-STYLE SLAYINGS.

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