

2 WEEKS BEFORE JFK WAS KILLED

Assassination Idea Taped

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Two weeks before John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, a man sat in a Miami apartment and described how it could be done.

The man was an organizer for a State's Rights party. And his conversation was being taped by the Intelligence Division of the Miami Police Department.

The man said that a plan to kill the President was in the works. He said Kennedy would be shot with a high-powered rifle from an office

building, and he said that the gun would be disassembled, taken into the building, assembled, and then used for murder.

He did not say anything about plans to remove the gun from the building.

"They will pick up somebody within hours afterwards . . . just to throw the public off," he said.

The man told his tale on Nov. 9, 1963. He was talking to a police informer who was posing as a State's Rights advocate. The tape of the conversation was given to the Secret Service. And the

informer gave a statement to a Secret Service agent.

Two weeks later, on Nov. 22 — about 12:30 p.m. — President Kennedy was shot while riding in an open car which had just passed the Texas School Book Depository building on Elm Street in Dallas.

Besides being a warehouse for school books, the Texas School Book Depository also is an office building.

Just an hour and a half later, Dallas Police captured Lee Harvey Oswald. They later said he had assassinated the President with a high-powered rifle from the

book depository.

But Oswald said: "I haven't killed anyone . . . I'm just a patsy."

He was echoing the man who had said in Miami that somebody would be picked up for the murder — quickly — "just to throw the public off."

Because of the striking similarity between what the man had said could happen, and what the federal and local police said did happen, Miami intelligence agents again brought the tape-recorded conversation to the

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attention of the Secret Service.

The intelligence agents say that the man was picked up and questioned by the FBI on Nov. 27 — five days after Kennedy died. Copies of the taped conversation have been in the Miami Police files ever since. Intelligence agents say they do not know what happened to the man featured on the tape.

On Dec. 10, he left his Georgia home on a political trip which included a stop in Dallas. The informer says he has not seen the man since then.

Meanwhile, the public read stories about Lee Harvey Oswald — accused killer of the President — who had been drummed out of the Marine Corps, and who had defected to Russia, and who had a Russian wife, and who had a record of mental instability, and who was a polit-

ical agitator of extreme causes.

Two days after his arrest, he was shot to death by Dallas stripjoint operator Jack Ruby.

The Warren Commission later concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin. It said that he owned the murder weapon — a high-powered, 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano, bolt-action rifle fitted with a sniper scope. The commission said he got the rifle into the building by disassembling it and carrying it under his arm in a paper bag.

The commission said that Oswald did not try to remove his rifle from the building after the assassination. Police found it behind some boxes on the sixth floor of the depository about a half hour before Oswald was captured.

Oswald had started work in the depository Oct. 19. Federal officials had okayed the Dallas motorcade on Oct.

4. The depository commands a view of the tailend of the traditional motorcade route in Dallas.

The man in Miami who had predicted a method of assassination two weeks before it happened also said this: "He (Kennedy) knows he is a marked man."

The informer asked: "They are really going to try to kill him?"

The man answered: "It is in the working."

Perhaps Kennedy did know that he was a marked man.

On the morning of Nov. 22 — while Lee Harvey Oswald was carrying his disassembled rifle into the book depository — President Kennedy was in a Fort Worth hotel room, waiting for his flight to Dallas.

Somebody showed the President a full-page ad which was running that morning in the Dallas newspaper. The ad accused Kennedy of treason. His close aide, Ted Sor-

enson, later wrote that Kennedy turned to his wife, Jackie, and said: "We're really in nut country now."

The President and Jackie both read the ad through. The words struck them like body blows. William Manchester, in *The Death of a President*, describes what happened next.

Kennedy began pacing around the room, talking about assassination. He said: "Last night would have been a helluva night to assassinate a President. I mean it. There was the rain, and the night, and we were all getting jostled. Suppose a man had a pistol in a briefcase."

He raised his right hand, aiming it like a pistol, and he fired off some shots, using his thumb as the rising and falling action of the pistol's hammer.

He said: "Then he could have dropped the gun and the briefcase . . . and melted away in the crowd."

Kennedy then went to his murder in Dallas. The assassination did not happen the way he was thinking about The Warren Commission concluded that it happened the way the man in Miami had said it would — two weeks before.

The man in Miami had also named one man who was gunning for Kennedy. He said: ". . . (he) is just as

likely to get him as anybody . . . he tried to get Martin Luther King . . . he followed him for miles and miles, and couldn't get close enough to him."

The man he named was not Lee Harvey Oswald. He is a Klan leader from Tennessee. He was also working with Right Wing groups, trying to form a third American political party dedicated to the preservation of State's Rights.

The man talking in Miami described the Klansman as a member of the hardcore underground which had a taste for terror by bombing. The man said that the Klansman participated in the bombing of the Birmingham church in which several Negro children were killed.

The man said: "If he wants to blow up the National Capitol, that is all right with me. I will go with him. But not as a party though, as an individual."

"After the conversation, and the way he talked to us, there is no question in my mind about who knocked the church off in Birmingham."

The man said he himself had been contacted by an underground chief in Delaware who had his eye on the Supreme Court Building in Washington. The man talking had worked on the construction of the building for three and a half years.

He said: "He wanted me to give him the layout there so they could go over there and do some things there, you know. But he called it off . . . I was ready to go with him. I gave him the damn information he wanted."

The informer had traveled to Right Wing meetings with the man talking. He had told his police contacts that everywhere he went he had heard talk about the plans to kill John F. Kennedy. The President was coming to Miami on Nov. 18. The police

told the informer to get his friend to Miami, so they could "bug" his talk about assassination.

Sitting in an armchair in a cream-colored parlor in Miami on Nov. 9, 1963, two weeks before the President was killed, the man said: "Well, we are going to have to get nasty. We have got to be ready. We have got to be sitting on go, too. There ain't any countdown to it. We have just got to be sitting on go. Count down and they can move in on you. And on go they can't. Count down is all right for a slow, prepared operation. But in an emergency operation, you have got to be sitting on go."

The informer said: "I think Kennedy is coming here on the 18th, or something like that, to make some kind of speech."

The man said: "You can bet your bottom dollar he is going to have a lot to say about the Cubans, there are so many of them here."

The informer said: "Yeah, he will have a thousand bodyguards. Don't worry about that."

The man said: "The more bodyguards he has, the easier it is to get him."

"What?"

"The more bodyguards he has, the more easier it is to get him."

"Well, how in the hell do you figure would be the best way to get him?"

"From an office building with a high-powered rifle," the man said.

The informer said: "Boy, if that Kennedy gets shot, we have got to know where we are at. Because you know that will be a real shake if they do that."

The man said: "They wouldn't leave any stone unturned there no way. They will pick up somebody within hours afterwards . . . just to throw the public off."

There was no talk about

killing Kennedy with a bomb. ing down the man's talk about assassination.

Sitting in the Miami apartment on Wednesday, Nov. 9, two weeks before the President was assassinated, the man talked on. Behind his chair were some small holes in the wall. Inside the holes were wires. The wires snaked through the wall to a box hidden on top of the refrigerator in the kitchen.

The box was the police tape recorder which was tak-

The President came to Miami on Nov. 18. Police intelligence took extraordinary steps to guard the President's life. They insisted that he abandon the plan to take a motorcade from the airport to downtown. They put him on a helicopter instead.

The President left Miami in good health. It was Monday.

That Friday there was no

countdown in Dallas. Somebody was sitting on go.

The President was shot dead.

