

# Kennedys may have known of 'plots'

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller says he has no conclusive information but indicated Sunday that President John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy might have been aware of Central Intelligence Agency assassination plots.

Rockefeller did not provide any detail on this point, however.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," Rockefeller was asked why his panel had not pursued the assassination question. He said "many of the people

have died, who were allegedly involved, 'and others were assassinated ....'"

He was asked if he had meant to say "that some American leaders who might have been involved in possible assassination plots had themselves been assassinated?"

He responded: "I did."

When asked to name the leaders, he added:

"Well, as I said, we have no conclusive information but the President of the United States and the attorney general of the United States were both assassinated tragically in this country."

There has been no public evidence linking either President Kennedy or Robert Kennedy to plots to kill foreign leaders.

Rockefeller headed the commission investigating intelligence activities which reported to President Ford last week.

Two former aides to Robert Kennedy, Adam Walinsky and Frank Mankiewicz, issued the following statement:

"The White House and Sen. (Frank) Church have both stated flatly there is no evidence that either John or Robert Kennedy were involved in any way in assassination attempts. Either Rockefeller has not read his own report or he is deliberately lying."

Rockefeller noted that the report to Ford said the commission did not have sufficient information to come to any conclusion on allegations of CIA involvement in plots to assassinate foreign leaders.

Rockefeller said CIA involvement in domestic intelligence had begun because of fears that foreign influence might have been involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement. He noted that the CIA had been working on this problem outside the country and became involved domestically because it had the capacity for analyzing foreign involvement.

Asked why no action had been taken to curtail alleged CIA domestic abuses

prior to recent news disclosures, Rockefeller noted that action had indeed been taken.

"Wiretaps by the CIA in the United States were stopped in '65, bugging was stopped in '68, illegal entries, of which there were 12, were stopped in '71 and the mail coverage was stopped in '73. So I think it's quite clear action was taken ....," Rockefeller said.

He said the commission information on assassinations was given to Ford with the assumption that it would be given to the Senate, which is also probing alleged intelligence agency abuses. The assassination information was not made public with the commission's report.

Developing material from several years past is difficult, Rockefeller explained, because many individuals have died and "there is a real problem of amnesia of many who are still around ..."