

Chronicle
Report Details
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A Proposal
To Kill Castro

Early leak

Washington

The Rockefeller Commission has minutes of a 1962 meeting that show high administration officials discussed the possible assassination of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, according to authoritative sources. The subject reportedly was dropped from consideration.

But while one source who has seen the minutes said the subject was immediately dismissed, two sources say a memo was written two days later by an assistant to then-Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara directing the Central Intelligence Agency to develop contingency plans for the possible assassination of Castro.

That memo too was withdrawn immediately, one source said. But he said subsequent U.S.-sponsored plots were made against Castro's life.

The memo, which dealt with a variety of subjects, does not use the word "assassination," according to a source who saw the memo, but relies on more general terms, such as "elimina-

tion."

But the source said the memo clearly provided authority for drawing up contingency plans for an assassination.

The sources declined to be identified.

The sources said minutes of the Aug. 10, 1962, meeting show it was attended by McNamara, then-Secretary of State Dean Rusk; John A. McCone, then-director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's adviser for national security affairs.

"The subject (of killing Castro) was raised and immediately dismissed," said one source who has seen the minutes.

The memo, written by McNamara assistant Major General Edward G. Lansdale, was immediately withdrawn, one source said, although he acknowledged subsequent attempts were made on Castro's life.

Reached by phone, McNamara and Lansdale both said they have no recollection of either the memo or the meeting.

Associated Press