

# Rockefeller Gives Ford Report on C.I.A.

NY Times JUN 7 1975

## President Is Undecided on Making It Public

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 6—President Ford received today the first sweeping report on activities of the Central Intelligence Agency compiled since the mid-nineteen-sixties amid doubts as to whether it would be made public and contradictions about the handling of the investigation of alleged assassination plots against foreign leaders.

In a brief ceremony for photographers in the President's White House office, Vice President Rockefeller delivered a blue-bound, 1½-inch-thick volume of 299 pages detailing the findings of a special commission created last January to investigate certain activities of the C.I.A.

Despite week-long indications from Administration officials that the report might be made public as early as this weekend, the White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, said that the President would read the report over the weekend and then decide whether to make it public.

The commission, Mr. Rockefeller told the President, "did not have time to review the assassination attempts, but we will turn over to you the information we've gathered."

Meanwhile, authoritative intelligence and Administration

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sources said that the staff of the Rockefeller Commission had prepared two drafts of a section on the assassination issue, but said that they were not included in the final report after White House officials said that there was significant evidence in Federal Government files that the commission had not dealt with.

These sources said that the commission staff was too small and its mandate too narrow to handle the numerous charges that the United States Government might have plotted to kill leaders of foreign Governments.

Several officials, speaking privately, said that President Ford might appoint a separate panel to investigate the matter of assassinations. Others said that the White House might decide to leave the responsibility for investigating the matter with the Congressional committee now studying the

intelligence agencies.

Mr. Rockefeller told reporters today, for instance, that the responsibility for investigating the assassination questions might pass to Senator Frank Church and the members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities.

### Up to White House

The Senate committee has already begun a full-scale inquiry in the matter and today heard testimony from a former director of the C.I.A., John McCone, in closed session. Later, Mr. McCone told newsmen that high officials in the Administrations of Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy had authorized "actions" against Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba. He said that they had been aborted.

Later, Mr. Church told newsmen that the question of plots against leaders of foreign countries was not confined to Mr. Castro.

Questions about the handling of the investigation of assassination charges and whether the commission's findings on the C.I.A. would be made public have swirled through Washington for several days.

Earlier this week, Mr. Rockefeller announced that his commission's report would be

turned over to the President today, and his aides said that they believed that it would be made public shortly after. The commission spokesmen, however, stressed that the decision was up to the White House.

Nevertheless, many major news organizations were told privately that the report might be released by the weekend.

But today, in a briefing for reporters, the White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, said that the President would read the report over the weekend, and the decision about whether to release it would be made next week.

The briefing was described by several newsmen as the most acrimonious since the Nixon White House.

Mr. Nessen said that to his knowledge, the only bound copy of the report was in the hands of the President. But sources at the Rockefeller Commission said that there were three bound copies, including the one the President had, and 20 typewritten copies in the hands of commission members and staff. They also said that "a number" of proofs of the report had been given to the commission for the checking of errors.

The commission had originally planned to print and send 3,000 copies of its report.

Mr. Nessen told reporters that it was untrue that the White House had rejected the original report and ordered it rewritten. He also denied that Phillip Buchen, White House counsel, had seen a pre-copy of the report.

"The one and only copy of the full report is in the hands of the President," Mr. Nessen said.

However, other authoritative Administration and intelligence sources gave this account of events.

Last May 12, E. Douglas Dillon, vice chairman of the Rockefeller Commission, told newsmen in a routine briefing that the commission had been ordered by President Ford to investigate reports of assassination plans, and that the commission intended to cover the question in its report.

At the time, the commission's 12-man staff under David W. Belin, former Warren Commission counsel, was stretched thin, and Mr. Belin was attempting to press the assassination matter almost singlehandedly.

During the last 10 days of May, the commission prepared draft copies of a section summarizing its findings on assassinations and circulated them among the commission members and several White House officials. One source said that C.I.A. officials might also have seen the draft.

When it reached the desk of White House aides, several of them recognized that it was based primarily on information from C.I.A. files, and that files of several other Federal agencies contained pertinent data that the commission staff had not delved into.

### Other Questions Raised

Moreover, one source said, "the charges were coming so fast in the press that the commission had not even been able to check out some of those." Indeed, Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale told reporters last week that he had prepared plans to depose of Premier Castro that might later have been expanded to include the option of "assassination," but he said that he had not been questioned about this by the Rockefeller Commission.

In the last week of May, the

decision was made to not attempt to draw formal conclusions in the final report.

What has confused the situation have been the public statements of the Vice President. Last Monday, he gave no hint to reporters that he assassination issue would be left out of the final report. Indeed, during the week, a commission spokesman confirmed, Mr. Rockefeller told one group of reporters that the report would address the issue of assassinations.

But, the spokesman explained, the Vice President meant that there would be a brief note in the report telling the President that the commission had begun an investigation of assassination matters, but that it had not completed it and was turning over the raw data.

Other questions were raised. Why didn't the commission ask for more time to complete its investigation? It had received one time extension of two months to make the initial foray into the assassination question.

The commission spokesman said that the only reason he knew was that the staff was made up of private lawyers, many of whom wanted to re-

turn to private life. The commission officially went out of business today, he said.

There was also the question of what several sources suggested was a "shrinkage" in the size of the report. On Monday, Mr. Rockefeller told newsmen that the report would run some 350 printed pages. But the final version, a spokesman said, was 299 pages. He said that the 350-page estimate has been made before the type was set.

### Belin Has No Comment

Mr. Belin declined to comment on any aspects of the preparation of the report, but said that next week "as a private citizen" he might make a statement on the handling of the investigation.

Mr. Rockefeller said early today in an interview with television newsmen that he had made the last-minute announcement that the commission's report would not deal directly with assassination matters after he saw the "implication in the press and comments of other committees about my investigation which took for granted it was going to be covered and therefore assumed I did not take this [assassination] seriously."