

Trujillo's Assassins Reportedly Got 'Material Support' From the CIA

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The CIA contributed "material support" to a group of Dominicans who assassinated the Dominican Republic's dictator, Gen. Rafael Trujillo Molina on May 30, 1961, authoritative government sources say.

According to the sources, that is one of the "successful assassination attempts" mentioned yesterday by Rep. James V. Stanton, D-Ohio, who is the chairman of a House subcommittee investigating the CIA.

The details of the assassination have also been supplied to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Several government sources said that the Trujillo case was the successful attempt mentioned recently by the committee's chairman, Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho.

INFORMATION about the Dominican assassination was given to President Ford by CIA Director William E. Colby in January, authoritative

sources said. A CIA spokesman had no comment on the report.

It is unclear what foreign policy objective of the United States would have been served in 1961 by the killing of Trujillo. Several sources, however, said it was part of a "series of events" connected with the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba the month before.

It is also unclear from public or private reports at how high a level Trujillo's death was authorized. Nor is it clear whether authorization was given during the administration of President John F. Kennedy, who took office in January 1961, or that of Dwight D. Eisenhower, Kennedy's predecessor.

TRUJILLO WAS KILLED by gunmen as he drove from his home in San Cristobal to Ciudad Trujillo, capital of the Dominican Republic. His death ended 31 years of what has been called an oppressive dictatorship.

The general was killed by seven Dominicans allegedly led by Gen.

Juan Tomas Diaz, who was later killed in a gunfight with Dominican policemen.

According to sources, CIA files indicate that the agency supplied "material support" to what one source called an "indigenous" group of Dominicans who plotted and killed Trujillo.

The assassination touched off a roundup of opponents of the Trujillo regime. At one point some 60 persons had been taken into custody, news accounts said.

ACCORDING to authoritative sources, one of the men involved in the attack cracked under interrogation, which included torture, and told his captors that at least one of the guns used had been supplied by CIA operatives. An account of that incident is included in documents discovered in the growing investigation of the agency, the sources said.

During the early stages of the investigations of the agency, several of its former officials said that,

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though there may have been plots to assassinate foreign leaders, there had been no "successful attempts." Other intelligence sources said that that should be amended to "no attempts where Americans actually became involved directly in the killings."

"When this is all said and done," one source said, "I think it will be clear that no member of the CIA or Americans were hired to assassinate Trujillo or Castro. What we are talking about in these cases is aid and comfort to indiginous elements."

"THE DEGREE to which the Dominican group got aid," this source said, "may have been more than we now wish."

These sources said the matter of plots against Trujillo and Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba were covered in the page summary prepared by the Rockefeller commission but were not made public in its report.

The material from the commission has been sent to the Justice Department for possible prosecutions. The White House also made public a memorandum to Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi in which it noted, "in addition to the materials (on assassinations) accumulated by the commission there are relevant materials on these subjects in the files of the National Security Council and certain State De-

partment and Defense Department files of similar relevance."

THE MEMO, SIGNED by Ford, said "I hereby request that you review all of these materials as soon as possible and take such action as you deem warranted as a result of your investigation." Sources within the Justice Department have said that it is unclear whether the alleged plots against Castro would constitute a violation of U.S. law that is within the statute of limitations.

But, one key source said, there is a clear federal prohibition against such a plot aimed at Trujillo. According to this source the Dominican Republic was a "friendly nation" in 1961, while Cuba was the subject of diplomatic strictures by the United States.

Under the U.S. Criminal Code, a person in the United States is acting illegally if he "knowingly begins or sets foot or provides or prepares a means for or furnishes the money for, or takes part in, any military or naval expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district or people with whom the United States is at peace."

The charge is a felony punishable by a \$3,000 fine or imprisonment for not more than three years or both. Though the statute of limitations may have run out on this charge, a conspiracy to commit the act may have continued well after Trujillo's death.
