

How CIA Plot To Kill Castro Backfired

By HARRY ALTSHULER
MIDNIGHT Staff Writer
The CIA and Fidel Castro were both betting on the same agent — and Castro won.

The CIA plotted to murder Castro by using a Cuban agent code-named Am/Lash, who agreed to lead a coup to overturn the Castro government.

But Am/Lash was a double agent. A longtime faithful pal of Castro, named Rolando Cubelo, he took the CIA's money — and spilled its plans into Castro's ear.

In angry retaliation, Castro set up the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

That is the story — already long-known in some Washington circles — behind the reopening of the file on JFK's murder.

But the truth may be even more complex. Now a former CIA operative, Robert D. Morrow, has spilled a dozen years of secrets into a confessional book, "Betrayal," published by the Henry Regnery Co., Chicago.

Lee Harvey Oswald was not the assassin, Morrow asserts.

Oswald was just the chump set up to take the blame, while the real killers escaped.

According to Morrow, Oswald was a small-time CIA em-



'Kennedy Was Trying To Get Castro, But Castro Got To Him First' —LBJ

CIA blamed Kennedy for Bay Of Pigs failure.

JOHNSON refused to spill any details.



ROBERT MORROW, former CIA man, holds Mannlicher rifle he was ordered to buy before the assassination. Three men fired at JFK he claims.

ployee, working under orders. He had no idea what it was all about or where his own actions fitted into the picture.

A group inside the CIA itself, working closely with disgruntled Cuban exiles, plotted the assassination, says Morrow.

Oswald's boss was another CIA employee, Jack Ruby. Ruby knew the scope of the plot and wanted no part of it. But Ruby had a racket of his own on the side, drug-running from Cuba. It made him vulnerable to blackmail.

Ruby was the Dallas nightclub operator who walked up to Oswald and, as the nation watched on TV, shot him at close range. Ruby too is now dead, but his claim was he performed the act out of love for the dead President. Morrow says this is the truth about Ruby.

He was ordered to liquidate Oswald, to keep his mouth shut, and threatened with a jail sentence on a drug charge if he hesitated.

What did the CIA cabal have against JFK? Morrow explains, the CIA group and its Cuban exile friends blamed Kennedy for the Bay of Pigs invasion failure. And they charged him with playing politics in the Cuban missile crisis.

"If our President and his brother sit on the missile information, he won't live through his first term," Morrow heard from an insider.

The CIA-Cuban exile plotters regarded JFK as a traitor. They felt he wasn't ready enough to battle Castro, whom they saw as a deadly menace to the U.S.

Their first plan was to ruin Castro by counterfeiting Cuban currency to smash the economy. They were running their counterfeiting operation with U.S. government funds and salaries, but naturally they had to keep it dark from the White House.

Their secrecy succeeded too well — for the Secret Service broke in and arrested them as ordinary counterfeiters. Morrow himself was handed a two-year sentence, suspended, in connection with the scheme.

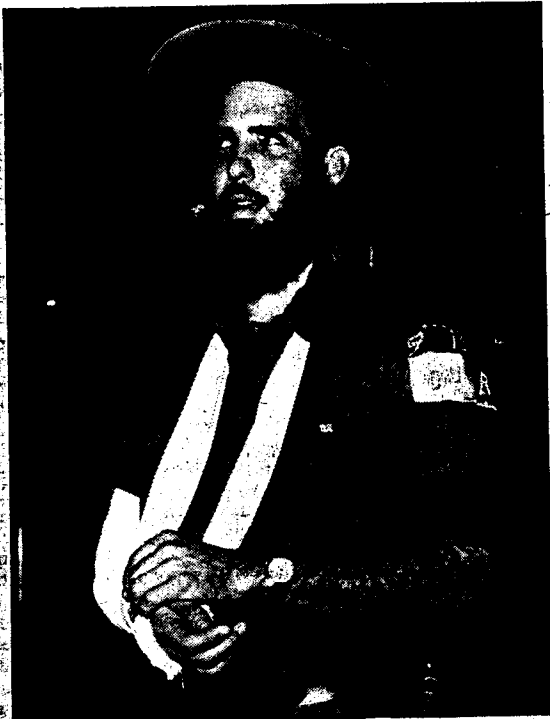
The insiders felt the White House had interfered with their last hope — short of violence — of breaking Castro.

"If we can't get Castro because of the President, we'll get the President first, so we can get at Castro," one of them warned Morrow.

The kingpin of the group, his book says, was Clay Shaw.



ROLANDO CUBELO, left; Cuban Police Chief Efigenio Amejeiras; Fidel Castro; and Havana University President Juan Marinello, in the early days of the Castro victory.



ROLANDO CUBELO, almost a Castro lookalike with the beard and cigar, wore his arm in a sling as a result of wounds he received in the Presidential Palace takeover in Havana on Castro's behalf.

