

Probe would focus on possible Cuban

Senators want new investigation

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WASHINGTON — On the strength of a report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, some Senators have called for another investigation of the assassination of President John Kennedy. If the call is answered, and it might be one day, the new investigation would be the sixth conducted on a major scale by government officials since President Kennedy was murdered in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

What more is to be done in the way of investigation in the 13th year after the murder of the 35th President of the United States? Trails unexplored at the time grew cold and now are covered with the underbrush of passing years.

J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the FBI at the time of the assassination is dead. So is Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency until the spring of 1961, a man knowledgeable about the Kennedy Administration plots against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

However, according to Senator Richard Schweiker, the Pennsylvania Republican who remains among the most enthusiastic of the assassination theorists and potential conspiracy theorists, the previous federal investigations of the murder amounted to "a cover-up."

Backed down

While Senator Schweiker has retreated from his assertion of last October that the Warren Commission report on the Kennedy assassination would collapse "like a house of cards," he still maintains that there are promising leads. He takes this view despite the conclusion of the latest Senate report that no new evidence strived "to justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy." Senator Schweiker helped to write the report.

The focus of a new investigation, however, would be rather limited in scope and different in emphasis from the earlier studies, according to staff members of the Senate select committee.

Senator Schweiker and, with less enthusiasm, some of his Senate colleagues, want to tie up what they leave to be loose ends remaining in three fields.

First, as the committee put it, "the possibility exists that senior officials (of the FBI and the CIA) made conscious decisions not to disclose potentially important information" relating to the assassination.

The staff specialists say a new inquiry could try to determine "on whose authority" and for what reasons the post-mortem investigations by both agencies were crippled or halted.

Second, questions remain unresolved about the role of a man referred to as Am/Lash, a Cuban official close to Premier Castro, who was chosen by the CIA to kill the Premier and lead a coup overthrowing the Castro Government.

The select committee established that Am/Lash, in reality Rolando Cubela, was receiving CIA instructions

on eliminating Premier Castro at the very time Lee Harvey Oswald was preparing to shoot at President Kennedy.

Was it possible, the committee staff members ask, that Am-Lash could have been a double agent whose direct knowledge of the CIA's intentions toward Premier Castro led to the Kennedy murder?

Leads dropped

The third area for further investigation, Senator Schweiker contends, concerns leads purporting to involve several "mysterious strangers" of Cuban origin. The intelligence agencies picked up the leads in the aftermath of the murder and then dropped them.

One lead involved reports assembled by the CIA about a Cuban-American who crossed from Texas into Mexico on Nov. 23, 1963, and then boarded a Cuban airliner bound for Havana several days later as the only passenger. Another involved an unidentified

links to JFK killing

person who arrived in Mexico City the night of the Kennedy murder and boarded a Cuban airliner that had been delayed five hours to take the man to Havana. The passenger was not subjected to customs controls.

A Senate official who is close to the committee investigation said: "They feel there is a conspiracy. But they are not ready to point a finger yet at pro-Castro or anti-Castro forces. They also feel there are indications Am-Lash was a double agent."

Along with the recommendation that the new Senate intelligence oversight committee follow up these aspects of the assassination, the select committee has handed over 5,000 pages of documents relating to its own investigation.

Senator Schweiker is scheduled to appear tomorrow on the Face The Nation television program to plead his cause for pursuit of the leads.

But aides of Senator Daniel Inouye, who is chairman of the new intelligence committee, said that the Hawaii Democrat wanted an opportunity to

study the latest investigative report before authorizing a new inquiry.

"It is not his first priority," an Inouye aide said.

An aide of Senator Howard Baker, a member of the old and new committees, said: "Loose ends should be wrapped up," but added: "He is not overly enthusiastic. I doubt if it has top priority."

Not certain

Nor is it certain what the United States would have done or would still do if it were suddenly established that the Castro Government indeed plotted and directed the killing of President Kennedy.

At the time, with the 1961 debacle of the CIA-directed Bay of Pigs landing fresh in mind and the 1962 Cuba missile crisis only a year behind them, Kennedy Administration officials were predisposed to avoid still another "Cuban flap," as the select committee report makes clear.

There is no indication whatsoever that the current leaders of the United States desire a Cuban flap now, either.