

# Mystery man linked to

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WASHINGTON — The new Senate Permanent Committee on Intelligence Oversight is expected to reopen the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination based on several key leads developed by the now defunct Senate Intelligence Committee.

A simple majority of the 15-member committee can vote to pursue the investigation and a spokesman for its chairman, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, said that decision will be made within six months.

The leads are contained in a report released today by the old committee. It was prepared by three lawyer-investigators and two researchers, some of whom are expected to join the new committee and continue the investigation.

One of the leads developed was that shortly before midnight on Nov. 22, 1963 — hours after President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas — a twin engine plane silently touched down at Mexico city's Benito Juarez International Airport and dropped off a man.

He hurried to a Cuban airliner

which had been waiting five hours and boarded. He did not pass through customs where he would have had to identify himself and he sat in the cockpit unnoticed by other passengers. The plane roared off for Havana.

The old committee says this mystery man may have been the "Cuban Connection" in Kennedy's assassination and the CIA knew of his strange flight to Cuba but never followed it up.

IT IS ONE of three key leads on Kennedy's assassination turned up by the committee. As a result of these leads and other information which was excised from the final report for security reasons, the new committee is expected to reopen the investigation and pursue trails now 13 years old.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, R-Pa., one of the old panel's two members who conducted the investigation, said the CIA and FBI engaged in a "cover-up" in the inquiry and "there is no longer any reason to have faith" in the Warren Commission's conclusion that there was no foreign involvement in Kennedy's murder.

THE FINAL REPORT does not

dispute the Warren Commission's findings that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin. It does suggest that Cuban leaders could have been involved because of the CIA-backed attempts on Fidel Castro's life and the fact that a few weeks before Kennedy was shot the Cuban Premier publicly threatened retaliation on American leaders who tried to assassinate Cuban officials.

There were two other promising leads the report says were never followed up.

The day after the assassination a mysterious Cuban-American, possibly a Cuban agent, crossed the Texas border into Mexico at Laredo in a private auto, then took a regularly scheduled Cubana airlines flight to Havana using a Cuban "courtesy visa" and an expired U.S. passport.

THE CIA WAS told by an informant that this Cuban-American was "involved in the assassination" and that on Sept. 17, 1963, he attended a meeting of the Tampa, Fla., Fair Play for Cuba Committee at a residence, the report said. He was at the residence waiting for an "important" telephone call from Cuba that would be his "go ahead order" to leave the

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United States and return to his native Cuba, according to the report.

The report also said that Oswald may have been in contact with the Tampa Fair Play Committee earlier in the year. Concluded the committee:

"Thus, the suspicious travel of this individual coupled with the possibility that Oswald had contacted the Tampa chapter certainly should have prompted a far more thorough and timely investigation than the FBI conducted and the results should have been volunteered to the Warren Commission, regardless of its failure to request such information."

Another unfollowed lead came four years after the assassination when a Washington lawyer volunteered to the FBI that he had clients who had been hired by the U.S. government to assassinate Castro and knew of the Cuban's plans to retaliate.

THE FBI, at President Johnson's request, interviewed the lawyer who is not identified and who said he could not reveal his clients because of the attorney-client relationship. But according to a memo on the FBI interview obtained by the committee, the lawyer said:

• His clients were "on the fringe of the underworld," and hired by the government to assassinate Castro but the plot failed when the premier discovered it.

"By pressuring captured subjects he (Castro) was able to learn the full details of the plot against him and decided 'if that was the way President Kennedy wanted it, he too could engage in the same tactics,'" the report said.

• Castro subsequently dispatched teams to the United States to assassinate Kennedy, the lawyer said, contending his clients can identify two who were on these teams. He said these counterassassins were living in New Jersey in 1967.

THE MEMO WAS transmitted to the White House but there was no further investigation. The report said the FBI could not explain why there was no follow up.

"Had the interviewing agents known of the CIA-underworld plot against Castro, they would have been aware that the lawyer had clients who had been active in the assassination plots," the report said.