

Hidden Data on JFK



Church (D-Idaho), left, and Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) at a press conference Intelligence Committee report.

Associated Press Wirephoto

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What FBI & CIA Didn't Tell Panel

By THOMAS B. ROSS

WASHINGTON (CS-T)—The Senate Intelligence Committee has released a mass of new detail suggesting that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro may have arranged the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The committee stopped short of claiming conclusive evidence that Castro masterminded a conspiracy to kill Kennedy. But it declared that the original investigation of the assassination was "deficient" and that the CIA and FBI withheld vital information from the Warren Commission.

New Details

The committee reinforced the Cuban connection in its final 106-page report yesterday by citing these new

details:

¶ A month before the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination a top CIA official, declaring himself the "personal representative" of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, met with a secret Cuban agent who offered to kill Castro. Three days before the Kennedy assassination the CIA approved rifles, telescopic sights, explosives and a poison pen for the agent.

The agent was subsequently determined to be "indiscreet" and a "very dubious" security risk whose mission might have been discovered by Castro.

¶ The day of the assassination, the takeoff of a Cubana Airline flight from Mexico City was delayed from 6 p.m.

to 11 p.m. At 10:30 p.m. an unidentified passenger arrived in a twin-engine plane, boarded the airliner without going through customs and flew in the cockpit to Cuba.

¶ The day after the assassination, a Cuban-American, suspected of being a Castro agent, crossed from Texas into Mexico and took off for Cuba as the only passenger on a flight with a crew of nine.

¶ Three days after the assassination, an informant told the U. S. embassy in Mexico City that he saw Lee Harvey Oswald, labeled by the Warren Commission as the assassin, receive \$6500 at the Cuban consulate there after

a discussion of assassination. The informant was turned over to the Mexican police before a special FBI agent arrived to question him.

The informant recanted his story under police interrogation and the CIA and Warren Commission judged it to be a "fabrication," even though another "sensitive and reliable source" tended to confirm it.

¶ The day after the assassination, the CIA tried unsuccessfully to stop the Mexican police from arresting a woman employed at the Cuban consulate who was believed to have talked to Oswald there. A top CIA official expressed concern that the arrest would "jeopardize U. S. freedom of action on the whole question of Cuban responsibility."

¶ Five days after the assassination, the CIA complained that the U. S. ambassador in Mexico, Thomas Mann, was pushing his investigation too hard at the risk of creating a "flap" with Cuba.

Ordered to Stop

[In an interview yesterday from his home in Austin, Tex., Mann said he was ordered to stop investigating the possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald was a Cuban agent.

"It's true that I wanted

to investigate further," he said. "There were all kinds of possibilities. But I got peremptory instructions to stop, and I did stop."

[The Senate said the CIA believed he was "pushing the case too hard" and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover disparaged him as "one of the pseudo-investigators, a Sherlock Holmes." The report did not say flatly that Mann was ordered to stop his investigation, but he confirmed he was, although he did not identify the source of the orders.]

¶ Four years after the assassination, a lawyer came forward to report that one of his clients, a man with underworld connections, had been involved in efforts to kill Castro, who retaliated by recruiting "teams of individuals who were dispatched to the U. S. for the purpose of

Continued on Page 38

assassinating President Kennedy."

• Shortly thereafter, a White House aide told the FBI that President Johnson was convinced there had been a plot to kill Kennedy. But no new investigation was undertaken.

¶ Seven days after the assassination, FBI Director Hoover declared in a memo that Johnson told him he wanted to "get by with just my file and my report" on the assassination. Hoover said he agreed it would be "very bad to have a rash of investigations" into the possibility that Oswald did not act alone but was part of a conspiracy.

¶ Four days after the assassination, Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, Robert Kennedy's assistant, passed the word that the investigation should be conducted to "satisfy the people of the U. S. and abroad" that Oswald was the assassin and "cut off speculation about his motive."

¶ CIA Director Allen Dulles, probably the only member of the Warren Commission who knew about the assassination plots against Castro, never informed the others. Nor did Richard Helms, then deputy director for operations.

¶ Three months before the assassination, in response to a Chicago Sun-Times story that the CIA had a link with

Chicago mobster Sam Giancana, Helms informed then-CIA Director John McCone of the assassination plots against Castro. But McCone did not tell the Warren Commission.

Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.), co-director of the Kennedy inquiry, concluded: "The nondisclosures and investigative failures — intentional and otherwise — documented in this report establish that the Warren Commission was deprived of such vital pieces that there is no longer any reason to have faith in its picture of the Kennedy assassination."

He called for a new investigation, The Permanent Intel-

ligence Committee, which that produced the Kennedy report, has indicated that it will reopen the case after the presidential election in November.

Yesterday's report noted cautiously that the committee had "not uncovered any evidence sufficient to justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy" to kill Kennedy or that Castro was behind it.

But it declared that the evidence "impeaches the process by which the intelligence agencies arrived at their own conclusions about the assassination and by which they provided information to the Warren Commission."