

# Motives Sought in JFK Death

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The Senate intelligence committee voted yesterday to recommend a congressional investigation of the motives behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The committee took the action at a closed meeting called to discuss the results of its special inquiry into the shortcomings of the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency and other government agencies that helped investigate the murder.

As chairman of a two-member subcommittee that took up the controversial issue, Sen. Gary W. Hart (D-Colo.) told reporters that he had seen no evidence to invalidate the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was Kennedy's lone assassin.

But he added that "the remaining question, which the Warren Commission did not answer, was 'why?'"

"It's in that area," Hart said, "that I think the lingering doubts remain."

The other subcommittee member, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), predicted that the committee would release a fairly detailed and, he hinted, troubling report later this month on failures of the original investigation of the President's death and nagging issues that need to be pursued.

The committee, which is about to go out of business, recommended that the new inquiry be undertaken by the permanent Senate intelligence oversight committee

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the Senate is considering establishing.

Meanwhile, documents just made public by the CIA in response to a freedom-of-information lawsuit showed that CIA officials were talking of assassinating Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and his closest advisers in early March of 1960, apparently just a few days before secret planning for a Cuban invasion was approved by the Eisenhower administration.

Some critics of the Warren Commission's work, including Schweiker, have suggested that Kennedy's 1963 murder may have been in retaliation for the CIA's repeated sponsorship of plots to kill Castro.

In a 1975 memo drafted for the Rockefeller commission, a presidentially appointed panel that looked into CIA abuses, and made public last month, CIA counterintelligence officials said they still felt, as they did in 1964, that the Warren Commission report should have given more credence to the possibility of a foreign conspiracy in light of promising leads that were not pursued.

The Senate intelligence committee's investigation of CIA-sponsored assassination plots showed that the scheming against Castro continued after Kennedy's death.

Even on Nov. 22, 1963, the day Kennedy was shot in Dallas, a high-ranking CIA official was meeting in Paris with a secret agent who was a Castro intimate to offer him a pen rigged with a poison hypodermic needle for use on the Cuban premier.

The heavily censored CIA assassination documents made public yesterday touched not only on Castro, but also on other foreign leaders killed in coups or attempted coups with various degrees of U.S. backing.

The documents were released by Robert Borosage of the non-profit Center for National Security Studies as part of a freedom-of-information project jointly sponsored with the American Civil Liberties Union.

The records were all made available last year to the Rockefeller Commission and

then to the Senate committee, presumably with fewer deletions.

One six-page document, dated May 13, 1961, titled "CIA Covert Activities, Dominican Republic," had everything excised from it except part of one paragraph. It pointed out that the CIA had supplied "internal opposition leaders" with three .38 cal. revolvers, three carbines and accompanying ammunition as "personal defense weapons attendant to their projected efforts to neutralize Trujillo."

According to authoritative sources, the CIA told the White House in that same May 13, 1961, report that it also had some submachine guns and grenades in Ciudad Trujillo which could be provided to the anti-Trujillo group if the go-ahead were given.

The spy agency, however, deleted this from the document it gave Borosage.

ACLU national staff counsel John H. F. Shattuck said yesterday that he would continue pressing in court for more details.

He said he would "suspend judgment" as to whether the Rockefeller Commission got still more documents that have yet to be acknowledged in any fashion.

According to the records released yesterday, Castro's

assassination was mentioned as early as March 9, 1960, during a meeting of the CIA's "Branch 4 Task Force." Presiding was Col. J. C. King, the chief of the Western Hemisphere Division within the CIA's Directorate of Plans.

He told the meeting that then-CIA Director Alan Dulles was "presenting a special policy paper" to the National Security Council's 5412 Committee, which supervised covert operations.

The heavily censored memorandum for the record added: "Col. King stated that (deleted) unless Fidel and Raul Castro and Che Guevara could be eliminated in one package—which is highly unlikely—this operation can be a long, drawn-out affair and the present government will only be overthrown by the use of force."

Following the 1961 debacle at the Bay of Pigs, President Kennedy approved an

all-out secret war of sabotage and propaganda against the Castro regime under the code name "Operation Mongoose," whose de facto boss was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Reporting on a "Mongoose meeting" on Oct. 4, 1962, shortly before the Cuban missile crisis, then-CIA Director John McCone noted that Robert Kennedy, as chairman, made plain his and the President's "dissatisfaction with lack of action in the sabotage field."

The documents showed that the legacy of assassination involvement continued to pursue the CIA even after last year's investigations were starting to bring them to the surface.

In early April of 1975, a few weeks before the final U.S. evacuation of South Vietnam, for instance, CIA headquarters here was evidently told of a "potential coup" being planned against South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu in hopes that the change would bring continued American support for the beleaguered country.

The CIA reacted with deep alarm, fueled by memories of the 1963 coup that resulted in the death of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

"With Diem president and current allegations against our agency," then-CIA Director William E. Colby cabled Saigon on April 4, 1975, "it would be both institutional and national disaster if there were any remote connection between us and such an event. . . . If things get complicated at all, advise and I will recommend strongest effort to facilitate Thieu and family safe passage and haven."