

JFK killing linked to CIA, Cuba

By Thomas Ross
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WASHINGTON — New evidence in a still secret Senate report has raised the possibility that anti-Castro groups, once supported by the CIA, may have been behind the assassination of President Kennedy.

The report tends to cast doubt on the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. Rather, it strongly suggests a Cuban connection.

The evidence does not point conclusively either to a pro-Castro or an anti-Castro motivation. But the bulk of the 170-page report deals with the anti-Castro groups, possibly because they were operating in the United States and, therefore, were more susceptible to scrutiny.

The report, the final document in the 15-month investigation of the intelligence agencies by a select committee of the Senate, is scheduled to be made public within two weeks.

The report does not directly implicate the Central Intelligence Agency but implies that anti-Castro groups

may have retaliated against Kennedy after he ordered the CIA to sever its financial ties to them in 1962.

Kennedy's order grew out of the Cuban missile crisis, which was settled when the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its missiles and the United States promised to stop trying to overthrow Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Until that time, the CIA had been trying to assassinate Castro and to undermine his regime with paramilitary operations. Thousands of exiled Cubans, operating out of Florida and other Southern states, were involved in the CIA program.

One of the key unanswered questions is how some of the anti-Castro groups managed to stay in existence, even to the point of maintaining training camps, long after they were cut off financially by the CIA.

There has been speculation that the groups received covert money from right-wing organizations, businessmen who lost holdings in Cuba and even from the Mafia.

The Senate committee has disclosed that Mafia chieftains, anxious to reclaim their multimillion gambling and prostitution operations in Cuba, cooperated in the CIA efforts to kill Castro.

The CIA failed to disclose the assassination attempts to the Warren Commission. The commission also was kept in the dark about a special intergovernmental committee set up by then-Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, prior to the assassination, to look into the possibility that Castro might try to kill U.S. leaders.

Before the assassination there was only one public indication that the CIA might be plotting Castro's death. Three months earlier, The Chicago Sun-Times had revealed that the CIA had a connection with the late Chicago gang boss Sam Giancana.

But John McCone, CIA director at the time, flatly denied the story personally to this reporter and presumably to the commission.

McCone is expected to be called to explain himself as part of a new investigation of the Kennedy assassination by a permanent new Senate Intelligence Committee after the November election.