

hey, "smith." did this ever hit the papers? was in out of town when this hit....

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PM-Kennedy Assassination, 1st Ld-Writethru, 0544
Castro Said Oswald Threatened To Kill Kennedy While in Mexico City

Eds: INSERTS 2 grafs after 9th graf, Cuba has, to add Warren Commission, FBI's own tests upheld one-gun theory.

By KIM I. MILLS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Fidel Castro ran his own tests to determine whether it was possible for one man using a rifle with a telescopic sight to have killed President John F. Kennedy, according to FBI documents released today.

Based on his findings, Castro speculated that "it took about three people" to do the deed.

This information was included in a letter dated June 17, 1964, from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to J. Lee Rankin, general counsel for the president's commission investigating the assassination.

Hoover said Castro also recounted how, when Lee Harvey Oswald was refused a visa at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City several weeks before the assassination, he left saying, "I'm going to kill Kennedy for this." The letter was among 10,228 pages of previously secret documents related to Kennedy's assassination that were released today under a special 1992 law. The materials were transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration.

Existence of this Hoover letter and some of its contents has been known since the mid-1970s. However, this was the first time the paragraphs recounting Castro's statements have been made public.

The letter was based on information gleaned by an FBI informant in Cuba; his name was not included in the letter.

"Castro is said to have expressed the conclusion that Oswald could not have fired three times in succession and hit the target with the telescopic sight in the available time, that he would have needed two other men in order for the three shots to have been fired in the time interval," Hoover wrote. "The source commented that on the basis of Castro's remarks, it was clear that his beliefs were based on theory as a result of Cuban experiments and not on any firsthand information in Castro's possession."

Cuba has long maintained that Kennedy was assassinated by the CIA.

The FBI's own tests, using the same gun as Oswald, determined that three shots could have been fired by one person within the five to six seconds it took. The

Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination, concluded in 1964 that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy with a rifle from his perch in a sixth-floor window at the Texas School Book Depository in downtown Dallas.

Since then, however, numerous conspiracy theories have surfaced, revolving around whether Oswald was the lone gunman and, if he was, whether he might have been acting at the behest of the CIA, FBI or organized crime.

The documents released today examined whether Oswald had connections to the Cuban or Soviet governments. In another memo, Soviet officials acknowledged that Oswald had defected to the Soviet Union but said he was never given citizenship and that he belonged to no Soviet organizations. They described him as a neurotic maniac who was disloyal to his own country and everything else.

Soviet officials also believed the assassination was not the work of one man, and felt that Oswald was under the influence of "ultraright" elements.