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Nixon script: He was scum

But director Stone dismisses stories based on leaked draft

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Oliver Stone's planned movie about Richard Nixon could be a conspiracy theorist's dream: One early script reportedly has the former president organizing a hit squad that assassinated John F. Kennedy.



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The screenplay is prefaced by a confession that it is based partly on imagined scenes and "incomplete historical findings," according to Time magazine's March 20 issue.

Stone, however, Monday issued a statement saying the "hit squad" angle is "ridiculous."

The sensationalized stories on Nixon, based on very early drafts of the script, totally misrepresent the film we are trying to make," said Stone, who was widely criticized by historians for his version of the Kennedy assassination in his movie "JFK."

"Today's story, that we have Nixon organizing a hit squad that killed JFK, is ridiculous. If the media will allow us to finish writing the script, then shoot and edit the movie and present it to the public, I believe that we will be able to offer our audience an exciting and sympathetic portrait of the most controversial president in our history."

Newsweek, which also obtained an early version says the script portrays Nixon as a "pill-popping, Scotch-swilling, epithet-spewing" victim of forces ranging from the CIA to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to his own mother.

In the script, then-Vice President Nixon organizes a hit squad of CIA agents, Cubans, mobsters and right-wing businessmen to kill Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The mis-

Newsweek says the rough draft of "Nixon" portrays the ex-president as a "pill-popping, Scotch-swilling, epithet-spewing" man who organized a hit squad that killed John F. Kennedy.

threatening to reveal Nixon's role
in forming the hit squad, and Nixon
himself erasing the infamous
18½ minutes from the Watergate
tapes to cover up references to the
assassination team.
"Absolute, total and utter nonsense,"
historian Herbert Parmet,
who wrote "Richard Nixon and
His America," told New York
Newsday. "I guess they waited until
he died to come out with this
nonsense."

