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Report Suggests Castro Knew of Plan To Kill JFK

WASHINGTON (AP) - House investigators are weighing the merits of a mysterious intelligence report suggesting that Lee Harvey Oswald hinted to Cuban officials he might kill President John F. Kennedy and that Fidel Castro knew this before Kennedy was slain.

Castro has denied to the House Assassinations Committee that he knew of such a threat prior to Kennedy's murder. Two other Cuban officials say Oswald made no such statements during his three visits to the Cuban consulate in Mexico City.

The situation may become clearer today as the committee presents details about the intelligence report and a transcript of the committee's four-hour interview with Castro taped last April in Havana.

The suggestion that the Cuban leader had some inkling of Oswald's plan first emerged in 1967 in a National Enquirer article by Comer Clark, a British freelance journalist who died in 1972.

Clark wrote that Castro told him in an interview: "Yes, I heard of Lee Harvey Oswald's plan to kill President Kennedy. It's possible that I could have saved him. I might have been able to, but I didn't. I never believed the plan would be put into effect."

Clark quoted Castro as saying Cuban officials told him of Oswald's visit to the Mexico City consulate about two months before Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Clark claimed Castro said he was told Oswald said "someone ought to shoot that President Kennedy" and that he might do it himself.

Questioned about the account, Castro said he never granted Clark an interview and called the story absurd.

In a written report, committee counsel Robert Blakey said investigators "made an effort to explore Mr. Clark's background and reputation for veracity. Frankly, it was not good. Apparently he wrote extensively for the sensational press."

But Blakey continued, "Even though there may be doubts as to the fact of Clark's interview with President Castro, the committee has been informed that the substance of the Clark article is supported by highly confidential, but reliable sources available to the United States Government."

Questioned by reporters yesterday, Blakey refused to elaborate, except to say committee investigators have not evaluated the reliability of the secret sources themselves, nor have they reached any conclusions about the merits of the report.

The committee took testimony yesterday from the two Cuban diplomats who were in charge of the Mexico City consulate in 1963.

Eusbio Azcue Lopez and Alfredo Mirabal Diaz said Oswald became extremely angry when denied an immediate visa to travel to Cuba. Both swore he said nothing about Kennedy or about killing anyone.