

C.I.A. Is Said to Have Considered Plan To Assassinate Congo's Lumumba in '60

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
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WASHINGTON, June 20—The Central Intelligence Agency investigated whether it should assassinate Patrice Lumumba, the Congo leader, in 1960 but rejected the idea as an unwise and unnecessary operation, authoritative intelligence sources said today.

According to one source, an experienced senior intelligence officer was assigned by an agency superior to "examine the possibilities of assassinating Mr. Lumumba," made a study of the feasibility and later recommended against it. The planning went no further.

"It never got beyond that stage at the agency," the source said. The plan was never proposed to the National Security Council or the White House by the C.I.A., he added.

Secret Aid to Enemies

Mr. Lumumba was deposed as Premier of the Congo (now called Zaire) in December, 1960, and taken as a prisoner to Leopoldville. On Feb. 9, 1961, the central government authorities announced that he had escaped with two companions. On Feb. 13 the Government said that Mr. Lumumba had been murdered by Congolese tribesmen.

The Soviet Union and the United Arab Republic charged in the United Nations that his death was the act of agents supported by the Belgian Government, which controlled

the Congo until independence was granted in 1960.

An authoritative United States intelligence source said the United States Government had had nothing to do with Mr. Lumumba's death, but he acknowledged that the United States had secretly supplied material support to Mr. Lumumba's enemies.

The assassination study was unearthed in 1973 when the C.I.A. began an internal inquiry into wrongdoing. It has been described to the staff of the Rockefeller commission and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

"It appeared to me," one source said, "that this case established there was no need to get White House approval before the agency examined assassination as a contingency."

The examination of the feasibility of killing Mr. Lumumba, the original plans to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and the original plotting that resulted in C.I.A. support for a group that killed Rafael Trujillo Molino, the Dominican Republic President, began in the Administration of President Eisenhower, several intelligence and Government sources said.

One source currently familiar with investigations of intelligence matters said that "during the Eisenhower years there is no indication of higher-up White House involvement" but acknowledged that a review of National Security Council

files for the Eisenhower years was "not complete."

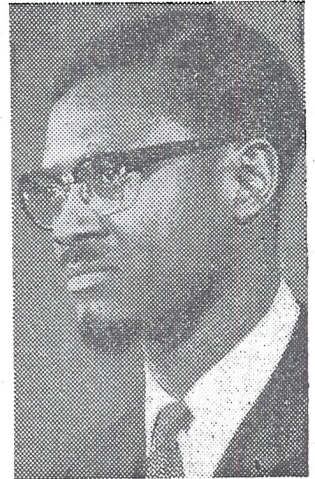
Another source said that under President Eisenhower, Allen W. Dulles, then Director of Central Intelligence had "far more autonomy" than he did under President Kennedy.

Five Plot Inquiries

According to sources familiar with the various investigations of the C.I.A., there are five cases where the possibility that the agency became involved in an assassination plot are under investigation by the Senate committee. They are Mr. Lumumba's case, Mr. Castro's General Trujillo's death, the death of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, and plotting against former President Sukarno of Indonesia.

"In several of these cases, Diem and Sukarno, for instance, what was done and who authorized it is still not clear," one source said, but he added that there were documents or testimony suggesting C.I.A. involvement in either assassination plots against the individual or supporting groups seeking to overthrow the leader where it was possible he would be killed.

These sources have rejected as "frivolous" reports that the C.I.A. was involved in plots against Charles de Gaulle, former President of France; Chou en-Lai, Premier of China; and Francois Duvalier, the late President of Haiti. In the case of Mr. Duvalier, however, sup-



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Patrice Lumumba

port for dissident groups by other United States agencies was not ruled out.

In the Congo case, Mr. Lumumba, a former postal clerk in the Belgian Congo, became head of a coalition Congo Government in June, 1960. His support, so many in Belgium and the United States believed, came from the Soviet Union and the United Arab Republic. Moreover his policies were regarded as anti-Belgium.

The United States and Belgium secret services, these sources said, were supporting Mr. Lumumba's enemies, and his emergence at the head of government was considered a victory for Communism.

The C.I.A. was considering various methods of overthrowing or removing Mr. Lumumba when the assassination study was proposed, the sources said.

The main investigation of C.I.A. involvement in plots to assassinate foreign leaders is being conducted by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence under Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho.

Mr. Church's committee swept aside its original investigation timetable to deal with growing concern over assassination matters. It is expected to report on this in July.