

'Kennedys Didn't OK Death Plots'

Washington

Neither President Kennedy, his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, nor senior members of the Kennedy Administration authorized assassination plots against foreign leaders, according to two former key Ken-

nedly aides.

The two aides, Robert F. McNamara, former Secretary of Defense, and McGeorge Bundy, who served as assistant to President Kennedy for national security affairs issued short statements of denial yesterday after testifying before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

However, both men refused to answer any questions from reporters on their statements, their testimony, or the details of allegations that officials in the Kennedy administration were aware of and may have authorized a CIA plot to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Bundy read his statement in a hurried, abrupt manner, noting that the "most important point" he had made before the Senate committee was that "as far as I ever knew, or know now, no one in the White House or at the Cabinet level ever gave any approval of any kind to any CIA effort to assassinate anyone."

"I told the committee in particular that it is wholly inconsistent with what I know of President Kennedy and his brother Robert that

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either of them would have given any such order or authorization or consent to anyone through any channel."

McNamara said: "I can't believe President Kennedy or Robert Kennedy or any senior member of the Kennedy administration ever had anything to do with the planning or action leading to assassination of any political leader."

He, too, refused to answer questions, on the grounds he felt it was not "appropriate."

The two men testified in executive session. A committee spokesman said the committee had not admonished them not to talk to reporters and that they were free to answer any questions they were asked.

There are several assassination plots in question during the Kennedy Era. General Rafael Trujillo, then the dictator of the Dominican Republic, was killed May 30, 1961, several months after Mr. Kennedy took office.

According to authoritative sources, the Senate committee has evidence that the CIA may have given material support to Trujillo's killers. There is also evidence of a last-minute, abortive attempt to stop the killing, these sources said.

Authoritative sources have said that there were two and possibly three separate



McGEORGE BUNDY
Kennedy aide



ROBERT McNAMARA
Ex-defense chief

plans to kill Castro. One involved the recruiting of two former Mafia figures. The Senate committee, authoritative sources said, has found material that would indicate Robert Kennedy knew such a plot was under way.

In a related development, retired Air Force Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty said that late in 1959 or early 1960 the CIA dispatched a pair of two-man teams armed with rifles to Cuba to kill Castro.

Prouty said the teams flew to the island in two small aircraft. One team actually landed on a deserted road in Cuba, he said, but stayed only minutes before taking off again for the United States. He did not explain why the mission was aborted.

Prouty told reporters he was so "thunderstruck" when former CIA Director Richard Helms denied on television that the agency had ever participated in an assassination plot that he called CBS reporter Daniel Schorr and told him:

"Dan, that was a lie!"

"I didn't like that," Prouty said as he emerged from an interview with staff members of the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

Prouty said his job had been to make technical arrangements for the assassination flight, including shortcircuiting customs regulations and preventing U.S. jet fighters from intercepting the mission.

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Last 6 paragraphs not in NYT version.