

EX-KENNEDY AIDES DENY DEATH PLOTS

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McNamara and Bundy Say Leaders Never Authorized Assassination Plans

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WASHINGTON, July 11—

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

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

Both men, however, refused to answer reporters' questions about their statements, their testimony or the details of allegations that officials in the Kennedy administration had been aware of and might have authorized a Central Intelligence Agency plot to kill Fidel Castro, Premier of Cuba.

Mr. Bundy read his statement in a hurried, abrupt manner. He said 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 C.I.A. effort to assassinate anyone."

'Inconsistent' for Either

"I told the committee in particular that it is wholly inconsistent with what I know of President Kennedy and his brother Robert that either of them would have given any such order or authorization or consent to anyone through any channel," he said.

He then rejected questions from newsmen with the remark that he was in too great a hurry to answer them.

Mr. 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. He said that it would not be "appropriate" to do so.

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

Several alleged assassination plots of the Kennedy era are under investigation. Gen. Rafael Trujillo Molina, then the dictator of the Dominican Republic, was killed on May 30, 1961 several months after Mr. Kennedy took office. According to authoritative sources, the Senate committee has evidence that the C.I.A. may have given material support to General Trujillo's killers. There is also evidence of a last-minute, abortive attempt to stop the killing, these sources said.

Castro and the Mafia

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

A former Air Force general, Edward Lansdale, has told newsmen and presumably the committee, that he was assigned by Robert Kennedy to prepare a group of Cubans to dispose Mr. Castro, and that the planning of what was called Operation Mongoose may have included assassination as a technique to remove Mr. Castro.

General Lansdale, however, has said that Mr. Kennedy never specifically ordered him to plan to kill the Cuban leader.

In another matter, the committee chairman, Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, said that the committee's staff members were being barred from interviewing Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and from perusing records in the Department of Justice. Mr. Church said that the committee would issue subpoenas for the F.B.I. men if necessary.

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See also SFC same date, for added material on Prouty.