

CASTRO RECALLS DOZENS OF PLOTS

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But Says Bullet to Kill Him
'Has Not Yet Been Made'

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SANTIAGO, Cuba, July 10 (Reuters)—Premier Fidel Castro said today that he knew of plans for dozens—maybe 40 to 60—attempts against his life by counterrevolutionary groups controlled by the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

But he said he had no grounds to affirm that President Kennedy or Robert Kennedy were directly involved in the attempts.

Talking to newsmen during the visit here of Prime Minister Michael Manley of Jamaica, 600 miles east of Havana, Mr. Castro told about an attempt to poison him in 1961 with a chocolate milkshake. He said this had failed as the bottle containing the poison had broken or the liquid had frozen in the refrigerator.

This was a time-poison designed to kill without traces two or three days after being ingested, he said.

He also said he had information about a group of newsmen with Venezuelan television credentials who intended to kill him with guns hidden in TV cameras during his 1971 trip to Chile.

There were some Cubans among them, he said. But he added that nobody had ever shot at him in an assassination attempt.

"It seems the bullet which will kill me has not yet been made," he said.

The men involved in the attempt in Chile did not shoot, perhaps because they were afraid, he said.

But Mr. Castro told of an attempt against the life of Carlos Rafail Rodriguez, currently Deputy Premier in charge of foreign affairs. He said nine men had opened cross-fire on Mr. Rodriguez as he drove back from an official ceremony in Matanzas, 60 miles east of Havana, in 1961.

Dr. Rodriguez escaped unhurt, one of the attackers was killed, apparently when a hand grenade he was holding exploded, Mr. Castro said. Other members of the group were captured and one confessed that the attempt had been organized by the C.I.A., he said.

Asked when the last assassination attempt took place, Mr. Castro said he had not heard of any for some time.

He said it was good for the United States people to know about C.I.A. activities because there was no example in contemporary history of a government agency trying to murder foreign leaders.

C.I.A. Change Seen

Mr. Castro also said that hijackings had been "invented" by C.I.A. agents who offered up to \$100,000 to the United States shortly after the 1959 revolution.

the agents bribed Cubans to hijack airliners to the United States, he said, adding that there had been fights in flight between Cuban security men and counter-revolutionary elements.

According to Mr. Castro, there are still C.I.A. agents in Cuba with sophisticated electronic equipment. But he said they were now more involved in intelligence gathering by such methods as recruiting foreign diplomats.

Counterrevolutionary groups in Cuba, as well as in Miami are infiltrated, he said. He added that Cuba would not afford an intelligence service but had sympathizers abroad.

Asked what would have happened if former President Richard M. Nixon had been elected in 1960—one year before the Bay of Pigs invasion—Mr. Castro said that Mr. Nixon probably would have sent in the United States Army and Navy.

He said that Cuba had to fight a sort of regular war for nearly two years after the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion against numerous attacks from sea. These were led by counter-revolutionary groups and organized by the Kennedy Administration, he said.