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Meeting on Castro 'Hit' Told

CIA, Assassin Reported Plotting on Day JFK Died

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Congressional investigators have received information that on the day President Kennedy was killed, the Central Intelligence Agency was making arrangements in Paris for a plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, according to informed sources.

President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. That same day, one source said, the CIA was passing guns "and, I think, poison" to an anti-Castro "hit man" in Paris.

Another source said CIA documents confirm that the meeting took place on the day Kennedy was killed. This source was uncertain about "the specific substances" that were handed over, but said they were meant to be used to kill the Cuban premier.

"I wouldn't read anything into it," this source maintained. "It's just one of the great ironies of history."

The incident, however, would appear to constitute a striking illustration of evi-

dence that was withheld from the Warren Commission in its investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

David W. Belin, who served on both the Warren Commission staff and as executive director of the Rockefeller commission's CIA investigation, refused to confirm or deny the reported Paris meeting.

But he said that the Warren Commission, as a group, "had no information on any alleged assassination plots" by the CIA against Castro or any other foreign leader.

Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.), a member of the Senate intelligence committee, agreed in a television interview Sunday that the Warren Commission "apparently had no knowledge of the number of attempts that were launched against Castro."

Schweiker added, however, that the late Allen W. Dulles, who sat on the Warren Commission and who was CIA Director until mid-1961, "certainly knew" about some of the schemes.

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Belin had "no comment" when asked about Dulles.

The sources who cited the CIA's Paris connection did not say how far this particular plot against Castro was carried, except to point out that it was obviously unsuccessful like all of the other CIA efforts to eliminate the Cuban leader.

The coincidence in timing becomes all the more bizarre in light of Castro's own account of what he was doing when Kennedy was killed. According to the Cuban premier, he was in Varadero, Cuba, that afternoon listening to an intermediary—a French journalist named Jean Daniel—talk about Kennedy's apparent interest in re-establishing contact between the two nations.

Daniel had just spoken with Kennedy in Washington, Castro related in the recently published book, "With Fidel." "In my opinion," Castro said, "this was a definite gesture on Kennedy's part to try to establish contact, an exchange with us."

Unfortunately, Castro added, this was "the only indication we had of Kennedy's thoughts . . . The same day that we were receiving the message, Kennedy was assassinated."

Even after Kennedy's death, the sources said, the CIA continued to sponsor schemes to take Castro's life, some as late as 1965 under the Johnson administration.

Former aides to the late President Kennedy and his brother, Robert, have insisted that neither of them ever authorized or condoned CIA involvement in assassinations. Former White House aide Richard Goodwin said President Kennedy specifically ruled out assassination "as a matter of general policy" in May, 1961. In an interview, Goodwin also said President Kennedy told him later that year: "If we get into that kind of thing, we'll all be targets."

Citing the CIA's efforts to kill Castro before the Kennedy assassination, Schweiker said Sunday on the television program "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP) that he felt the Warren Commission investigation should be reopened.

Schweiker said news stories out of Havana on Sept. 8 and Sept. 9, 1963 quoted Castro as denouncing Kennedy in strong language and warning that U.S. leaders would be in danger if they helped in any attempt to assassinate Cuban leaders. According to an Associated Press account of a Sept. 7 interview with the Cuban premier, Castro stated:

"We are prepared to fight them and answer in kind. United States leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorist plans to eliminate Cuban leaders, they themselves will not be safe."

According to Schweiker's office, the AP account was printed in the New Orleans Times-Picayune on Sept. 9, 1963. Lee Harvey Oswald was living in New Orleans at the time.

The Warren Commission said it investigated "literally dozens of allegations of a conspiratorial contact between Oswald and the Cuban government," but found no substance to any of them. The commission said it uncovered no evidence that "the Cuban government had any involvement in the assassination."

According to Belin, knowledge of any CIA assassination plots against Castro would not have changed the Commission's findings that Oswald killed both President Kennedy and Dallas police officer J. D. Tippit.

In response to a question, Belin also said such information would "probably not" have changed its findings about the possibility of a conspiracy either, although he added that "it's possible that it could have had an influence on the overall investigation."

Castro himself has denied any effort to assassinate Kennedy in retaliation for CIA plots against him. The Cuban premier has said he believes Kennedy's death was the result of a conspiracy but one "organized by reactionaries in the United States."

The Warren Commission said it "found no evidence that either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby [who killed Oswald] was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign to assassinate President Kennedy."