

# Assassination Plots



## Jack Anderson

**T**HERE has been secret, sworn testimony that the CIA and FBI have plotted occasionally to murder enemy agents in this country.

We have been unable to document a single murder case. But at least two witnesses have testified that they were asked by the CIA or FBI to commit murder.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has also obtained vouchers, which prove exotic assassination weapons have been sold to U.S. agencies.

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**C**IA EMPLOYEES have acknowledged to us that assassination plots have been discussed in their presence. The plotters were squeamish, said one source, about using the words "assassination" and "murder." They spoke more delicately about "eliminating" or "getting rid" of a troublesome Communist agent. But there was no question, insisted the source, that they were talking about murder.

Another source stressed that a Soviet spy or double agent might be marked for murder only if he were considered "a tremendous threat" to U.S. interests. Then the CIA wouldn't use one of its own agents but would recruit an outsider "to do the job," the source said.

Normally, the CIA would try, he said, to maneuver the victim out of

the country before arranging his disappearance. But one CIA source, with only second-hand knowledge of the case, told of a spy who was thrown off a New York City bridge. A cooperative police lieutenant allegedly submitted a suicide report on the victim. We have been unable, however, to confirm the incident.

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**I**N SECRET testimony before the Rockefeller Commission, Frank Sturgis of the Watergate break-in squad confessed that he had once been asked to commit a murder for the CIA in the Miami area.

He discussed with a CIA agent, Sturgis testified, how to dispose of the body. One plan was to dump it into shark-infested waters near the Bahamas. They also considered ditching the body in the Everglades swamp, Sturgis swore.

The agent promised to identify the victim at a subsequent meeting. But, according to Sturgis' account, he began to have misgivings.

So at the second meeting, Sturgis insisted that the assassination order would have to be confirmed by a CIA staff officer. That was the last, testified Sturgis, he heard of the scheme. The CIA has denied having anything to do with domestic murder plots.