

# CHURCH SAYS C.I.A. ACTUALLY TRIED TO SLAY CASTRO

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Says Moves Were Made in Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Administrations

A SPAN OF 'MANY YEARS'

'No Hard Evidence' Found That Any of 3 Presidents Knew of Agency's Acts

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5—The Central Intelligence Agency made actual attempts to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba in the Administrations of three Presidents, Senator Frank Church said today.

The chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said the committee had received evidence of actual attempts — as opposed to plans — on Mr. Castro's life in the Administrations of Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. This was the first time that any United States official had publicly stated that the C.I.A. may have tried to murder Premier Castro as late as the Johnson era or in the latter part of the Eisenhower Administration.

The Senator said, however, that the committee still had not found conclusive evidence that any of these Presidents ordered or even knew that the intelligence agency was involved in an effort to kill the leader of a foreign nation.

"We have no hard evidence that directly relates this activity to any order that was given by any President," he said.

## Poison Plot

Over the last few months it has been stated publicly by several official sources that the C.I.A. laid one plot against Mr. Castro in the later Eisenhower years and that this plot was put into operation while President Kennedy was in office. According to testimony in the committee's hands, this plot involved an attempt to poison Mr. Castro with the aid of two members of the Mafia.

But under questioning today on ABC's television show "Issues and Answers," Mr. Church, Democrat of Idaho, said that when his committee's report on political assassinations is made public, "you will find both plots and attempts, and they span many years.

"They span the years from the Eisenhower Administration through the Kennedy Administration, and into the Johnson Administration," he said. There were actual attempts as well

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as plots during these Administrations, he added.

President Eisenhower was in office from 1953 to 1961; President Kennedy's Administration lasted from 1961 to Nov. 22, 1963 and Lyndon Johnson was in office from then until 1969.

Senator Church confirmed an earlier statement by Senator Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, that the C.I.A. had organized assassination planning under an "executive action group" that prepared proposals to kill foreign leaders.

Mr. Mondale also said that both Richard Helms, former Director of Central Intelligence, and Richard Bissell, the agency's director of covert activities in the early nineteen-sixties, had testified that they had authority from a "higher level" to plot the assassinations.

## 'Strains Credulity'

Mr. Church said that it was difficult to believe that the Presidents did not know what was going on during these years.

"The whole thing strains credulity," he said. "Wait until you see the report. Wait until you see the conflicting evidence as to who was told what. Even the director of the C.I.A. didn't know what was going on for long periods of time."

During the time periods he mentioned, the intelligence agency was directed successively by Allen W. Dulles, who



United Press International  
William E. Colby, head of C.I.A., talking to newsmen yesterday.

ber. Among the causes of the delay, sources familiar with the investigation said yesterday, were new leads on the question whether Robert F. Kennedy ordered the assassination of Mr. Castro.

Robert Kennedy, then Attorney General, was assigned by President Kennedy to work on certain covert operations being planned by the C.I.A.

Meanwhile today, William E. Colby, Director of the C.I.A., said that it was his opinion "that there is no one in C.I.A. who could be convicted of any crime. There were things that were done wrong, but they were either done because they were believed to be right or within the color of the law there is justification for what they did.

"There are various of these things, but I do not believe that any of our employes can be found actually guilty."

The Congressional investigations of the agency have uncovered a wide range of illegal activity including mail opening, burglaries and violations of the agency's charter. Several matters are under investigation by the Department of Justice.

Mr. Colby made his statement on "Face the Nation," a CBS-television show.

died several years ago, John A. McCone, Vice Admiral William T. Raborn and, in 1966, Richard Helms. All three living former directors have been interviewed by the committee.

The committee's 300-page report was first expected to be completed in August but may be delayed until early November.