

Files on CIA SFChronicle Castro Plot Reported

CIA CASTRO PLOT

Washington

The Rockefeller commission has been told of documents supporting the charge that the Central Intelligence Agency contracted with the Mafia in a plot in 1961 to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, authoritative sources reported yesterday.

According to these sources, a top former official of the Department of Justice during the Nixon administration has told the commission in secret testimony that Justice Department files contain FBI memos that confirm that the CIA contacted Sam Giancana, a Chicago racketeer, and John Roselli, a soldier of fortune with organized crime connections, in a plot to assassinate Castro.

The existence of the documents would be the first public indication that there is written material to support the longstanding allegation that the CIA conspired with organized crime figures

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Much longer version, NYT, filed CIA (d).

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in such an assassination attempt

The file, the sources said, has been located and is now in the hands of John C. Kenney, acting assistant attorney general for the department's criminal division.

Kenney is expected to transfer the documents to the commission, which is investigating the domestic spying activities of the CIA.

He declined to comment on the matter. David W. Belin, chief counsel to the commission, also declined to comment.

As early as 1967, columnist Jack Anderson reported allegations that Robert Maheu, a former FBI agent and manager of Las Vegas properties for billionaire Howard Hughes, recruited Giancana and Roselli in a plot to assassinate Castro.

According to Anderson's version, Roselli, with CIA

help, organized one attempted assassination of the Cuban leader armed with poison capsules supplied by the CIA.

In another attempt, Anderson's reports have said, the group tried to infiltrate rifle sharpshooters to kill Castro during a public meeting.

The sources who said they were familiar with the existing files said they confirm that both Giancana and Roselli were working with the CIA at the time.

One source said the file contained a memorandum signed by J. Edgar Hoover, the late director of the FBI, in which Hoover discussed Giancana's CIA connections.

There is no information available from present sources on whether the assassination attempt was approved by President Kennedy or by any other high Kennedy administration official.

New York Times