

Kennedy Opposed Killing Trujillo, Ex-Aide Says

WXP (longer),
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President Kennedy personally ruled out U.S. involvement in the assassination of Rafael Trujillo shortly before the Dominican Dictator was killed in May, 1961, according to a former Kennedy White House aide.

Richard Goodwin, who was Kennedy's principal adviser on Latin American affairs, said the late President not only disapproved of U.S. participation in the scheme, but inserted a strong warning against such involvement in a May, 1961, cable to the U.S. consul general in the Dominican Republic.

"He said, 'Look if Trujillo goes, he goes, but why are we pushing that?'" Goodwin recalled of a conversation he had with Kennedy at

The injunction the President laid down in the cable,

Goodwin added, stated that the "U.S., as a matter of general policy, cannot con-

Then an assistant special counsel to the President, Goodwin said he was speaking up publicly now to refute suggestions that John F. Kennedy, who was sworn in as President on Jan. 20, 1961, may have known and even approved of Central Intelligence Agency complicity in efforts to kill foreign leaders.

The evidence Goodwin cited indicated, instead, that high official of the Eisenhower administration had encouraged such undertakings.

In an interview, Goodwin said, for example, that on Jan. 12, 1961, while Eisenhower was still president, the White House's so-called special group in charge of covert CIA operations authorized the CIA to turn over several guns to certain Dominican dissidents who were later involved in the Trujillo assassination.

Three .38-caliber revolvers and three carbines with accompanying ammunition, it was confirmed by other sources, were handed over

The special group had approved the transfer only on the condition that it take place outside the Dominican Republic — with the understanding that the underground rebels would have to smuggle the guns into the country themselves.

The CIA, however, sent them straight to Ciudad Trujillo (now Santa Domingo) in a diplomatic pouch, Goodwin declared. The guns were turned over to the dissidents with the help of Henry Dearborn, the U.S. consul general there.

Alluding to documents he saw as a White House aide, Goodwin said the revolvers and carbines were depicted by the CIA as intended for the personal defense of the dissidents "attendant to

their projected efforts to neutralize Trujillo."

According to evidence now in the hands of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the CIA also sent four .45-caliber submachine guns and some grenades to the Dominican Republic, apparently in another diplomatic pouch. The CIA informed the White House on May 13, 1961, that these, too, could be provided to the anti-Trujillo group "for their use in personal defense" if authorization were granted.

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