

CIA's Concern Over

Report of 'Hit List'

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency is worried that current investigations may track the agency's alleged involvement in three assassination plots aimed at foreign political leaders — Fidel Castro in Cuba, Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic and Patrice Lumumba in the Congo, according to a reliable source.

The CIA, which refused to comment on this report, has

repeatedly denied that it ever had a policy of directing the assassination of foreign leaders or attempts on their lives.

The agency maintains that position, according to the government source, but the CIA has acknowledged privately that in two episodes, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, attempts may have been carried forward by people who were in close

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contact with CIA officers.

In the Congo, according to

the source, the agency reportedly acknowledged that an assassination of the left-oriented leader Lumumba was discussed in some agency circles, but no action was taken. Lumumba was killed in 1961 by persons not connected with the CIA, the source said.

Trujillo, the Dominican dictator for 31 years and a close ally of the United States, was shot by assassins in late May, 1961.

Castro and his supporters claim to have squelched several assassination plots against Castro in the early 1960s, which they blamed on the CIA.

Lumumba, the deposed premier of the newly independent Congo, died mysteriously in February, 1961. The secessionist Katanga government that opposed him gave cash rewards to the village tribesmen whom it credited with the killing.

Last weekend the question of CIA involvement in assassination surfaced in a news report by CBS reporter Daniel Schorr, who said that

CIA Director William E. Colby briefed President Ford on the subject in December when Colby was reporting to the President on the CIA's domestic surveillance activities, which are now the subject of three separate investigations.

Rumors and published allegations of CIA involvement in various political assassinations have circulated for many years, always denied by the intelligence agency but sometimes supported by fragments of evidence, never conclusively substantiated or refuted.

An ex-CIA operative named Bradley Ayers, a former Army captain who helped train CIA agents in tropic survival, related yesterday that he discovered a team of marksmen trained in the Miami area in 1963, which "was to have the role of conducting an assassination effort against Castro." He said there was a CIA "case officer" for the team. Ayers said he encountered the marksman team while on a tour of secret CIA training bases in south Florida.

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