

SFChronicle

Ex-Aide's Testimony APR 22 1975

CIA Junked Castro Plot

Washington

The CIA's former head of "dirty tricks" told the Rockefeller Commission yesterday that during the Kennedy administration high-ranking intelligence officials discussed plans to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

"It was considered," Richard Bissell said in recapping his testimony before

the commission, but "it wasn't carried out." Bissell, deputy director for plans from 1959 to 1962, said the scheme was vetoed by then-CIA director Allen W. Dulles.

Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, head of the eight-member panel created by President Ford to investigate CIA domestic activities, refused to confirm that

Bissell had been questioned about alleged assassination plots against Castro.

As he recounted it, Bissell's testimony appeared to substantiate recent statements by convicted Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis that he participated in a CIA plot to assassinate Castro with a remote-controlled explosive device.

Sturgis said in an interview with the New York Daily News the plot was never carried out because officials in Washington

"couldn't make up their minds."

Associated Press

See SFEx 20 Apr 75 (filed CIA),
"CIA's 'Mata Hari' stole
Castro's secrets," by
Paul Meskil, New York News.

Also, SFEx 22 Jun 75 (filed CIA),
"Magdalena - the CIA spy who
lost her fortune," by Paul Meskil,
New York News.