

CIA (b)

Thurs., May 29, 1975 * San Francisco Chronicle 9

SF Chronicle

MAY 29 1975

CIA 'Plot' Against Castro

New York

A Watergate conspirator and a former Pentagon official said in interviews released yesterday that the Central Intelligence Agency financed an assassination plot against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

In an ABC-TV news special to be broadcast tomorrow,

Frank Sturgis, a former CIA operative arrested in the Watergate burglary, said he recruited and equipped dissident Cuban officers in the plot while working as a security aide to Castro under contract to the CIA.

"I picked these men and recruited them to when the proper time comes to prepare to go follow through with an assassination attempt if and when I did get the okay," Sturgis said.

The final order never came, Sturgis said, but the assassination of Castro "definitely" could have been done.

On the same program, Fletcher Prouty, a former Pentagon official in charge of liaison with the CIA, said the agency asked the Defense Department to provide a special plane to "land on a remote bit of road not too far from Havana and let out the assassination team."

He said, "We prepared the airplane, stripped it clean of else, and it was an airplane that was only infrequently used by the military."

"We flew that plane into Cuba. It dropped the people out in Cuba and the plane came back empty. I believe that the men that were on that mission have never been heard from since."

United Press