

JUN 3 1975

New Report on CIA, Castro Plot

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency acted primarily at the direction of higher authority in planning to overthrow or assassinate Cuban premier Fidel Castro in the early 1960s, a source close to the Rockefeller Commission said yesterday.

"This was not a case of a runaway secret police," the official said, adding that this conclusion will be documented in the commission's final report to be submitted to President Ford Friday.

The official, who declined use of his name, said that the White House or National Security Council may not have reviewed specific plans to assassinate Castro.

But he said U.S. intelli-

gence officials undertook such projects — with help from Mafia figures — in response to high-level instructions that Castro should be removed from power.

"The country's going to get a bit of a black eye from this report," the official said. "A lot of names will be named. There's enough blame to go around."

Meanwhile, Vice President Rockefeller, who heads the eight-member commission appointed by Mr. Ford to investigate CIA activities, said the panel found some illegal actions by the agency but no widespread pattern of misconduct.

"There are things that have been done which are in contradiction to the statutes,

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but in comparison to the total effort they are not major," Rockefeller said.

Meeting reporters after the commission held the last meeting in its five-month inquiry, Rockefeller said charges of massive illegal spying on U.S. citizens were unfounded.

"But that doesn't mean that there haven't been things done that were wrong," he said. "We (will) recommend extensive steps to be taken to prevent it in the future."

Mr. Ford appointed the citizens' commission early last January shortly after the New York Times reported that the CIA had long engaged in massive illegal domestic surveillance of U.S. radicals and anti-war dissenters and had collected dossiers on 10,000 Americans.

CIA director William E. Colby subsequently acknowledged that his agency, apparently in violation of its charter, did gather such files, infiltrated about 20 agents into anti-war organizations, opened the mail of Americans corresponding with persons in Communist countries and broke into the homes of agency employees suspected of disclosing secret government information.

Colby said any "missteps" by the CIA were "few and far between and were not criminally motivated.

A 350-page report of the panel's findings and recommendations — but not the backup testimony it heard in secret or all the documents it collected — may be made public as early as the weekend, Rockefeller said.

The timing will be up to Mr. Ford, who returns from a European trip tonight.

"I think you're going to be surprised and pleased by the comprehensive nature of the material," Rockefeller told reporters.

The commission originally was appointed to examine charges of improper domestic activity by the CIA, which is limited by law to gathering foreign intelligence. But after press reports surfaced that the agency had been involved in foreign assassination plans, the commission began investigating that area too.

How thoroughly the commission did its work is open to question.

At least one key witness who was reportedly involved in U.S.-sponsored efforts to kill Castro — Johnny Rosselli, a West Coast gambling figure — was never subpoenaed or questioned by the commission, the Times learned.

A spokesman for the panel declined comment on who was interviewed and who was not, pending issuance of the final report.

Los Angeles Times