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President Ford is wrestling with the question of how best to handle data on assassination plots found in the minutes of National Security Council meetings between 1959 and 1963, authoritative Administration sources said today.

The data, these sources said, were discovered as White House aides began searching for information requested by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. They were not part of the material gathered by Vice President Rockefeller's commission to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency.

As a result the information was not part of the background material for an 86-page "summary" on alleged assassination plots prepared by the commission and turned over to President Ford, the sources said.

#### U. S. Policy in Caribbean

According to one source, the material is a graphic history of United States policy in the Caribbean during the late nineteen fifties and early nineteen sixties. "Though there is no direct memo signed by President John F. Kennedy saying go assassinate Castro," this source said, "there is material in minutes taken between 1959 and 1963 which is important if the focus is on assassinations."

President Ford has already pledged to make this material available to the Senate committee, possibly under special security ground rules, and he has

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# Ford Weighs 1959-63 Data on Death Plots

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said that it will be turned over to the Department of Justice. But the President feels, one source said, that the Administration must take its own role in the handling of the data.

The White House investigation of assassination and alleged plots to assassinate foreign leaders is continuing, they said.

According to sources who have seen the material, it is concerned with finding a way to deal with the rising threat of Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba. There are not only discussions of direct operations against Premier Castro, this source said, but also of operations that might have the effect of turning a group or country against Mr. Castro.

#### 'Bizarre Suggestions'

"There were some pretty bizarre suggestions, as though a group of guys were sitting around and talking over a beer," this source said.

"This material is a shopping list of bizarre plans, a hodge podge," he said. What concerned the President when he learned of the material, this source said, was that raw data, "unevaluated and undigested," would be made public out of context and be harmful to the national image.

The source said, and sources on Capitol Hill confirmed, that press reports of alleged C.I.A. plots against Charles de Gaulle, the late President of France, have been the "very kind of" exaggeration that accompanied the question of misuse of raw data.

"The plan to kill de Gaulle was a totally unsolicited sug-

gestion, out of the blue, from someone outside the C.I.A. and was rejected by the C.I.A.," one source said.

"Its publication is why it's spurious to use raw, undigested intelligence material," the source said.

#### Church Confirms View

Senator Frank Church, chairman of the Senate committee, confirmed this view late today. In a statement issued by his office, he said, "according to the best information available to the select committee, I can report that no such plot was contemplated by the C.I.A. or any other agency of the United States Government."

According to Administration sources, however, there is material within the National Security Council minutes that would permit a reader to draw a chain of command for actions of the C.I.A. and other agencies against Caribbean leaders.

"The question posed is that when the White House issued a given order did it have reason to believe the C.I.A. would have cooked up assassination plots and that if it didn't put a stop to the plots did it have reason to believe the C.I.A. would try to carry them out with a direct order," one source said.

To prepare some "orderly" way to present this material to the public, this source said, Mr. Ford has contemplated a special briefing for the leaders of Congress as well as the investigating committees or a carefully prepared statement to the public by Mr. Ford himself. "He [the President] feels he must do something himself," the source said.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Kissinger said today that he thinks "it is essential for the United States to have the

C.I.A. intelligence mission continue to operate under strict control."

"There have been some abuses, but I consider the intelligence function of the C.I.A. is vital for the conduct of foreign policy and I hope that the C.I.A. will not be damaged [by criticisms of agency in the past year]," he said.