

SF Examiner

FEB 22 1976

Did Ike okay Lumumba killing?

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee has decided to stick by its finding of a "reasonable inference" that the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized a plot to assassinate Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba.

"After reviewing the evidence in the Lumumba case once again, we remain convinced that the language used in the committee's findings was warranted," chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, and vice chairman John Tower, R-Tex., said in a letter to former national security adviser Gordon Gray.

Gray and four other former Eisenhower administration officials had written the committee complaining that Eisenhower had been unfairly linked to the Lumumba assassination plot on the basis of the testimony of one middle level official. Copies of the correspondence were released yesterday by Gray.

In its assassination report last November, the committee cited testimony by Robert H. Johnson, a former member of the National Security Council staff, who said that during an Aug. 18, 1960, meeting he heard Eisenhow-

er say "something — can no longer remember his words — that came across to me as an order for the assassination of Lumumba."

In a notarized letter to the committee, Gray, C. Douglas Dillon, then acting secretary of state, Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, White House staff secretary, Marion Boggs, an NSC staff member, and John Eisenhower, the President's son, complained about the weight given Johnson's testimony in the face of their denials that the President had ever authorized an assassination.