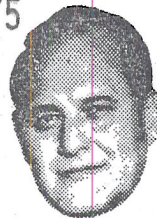


Alleged CIA Plots To Kill 'Papa Doc'



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WXP filed CIA (d)

A SWORN deposition describes two unsuccessful assassination attempts against the late Haitian strongman, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, in the late 1960s.

The deposition, given by Robert Pritchard to the special commission headed by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, alleges that the CIA first plotted to poison Duvalier in 1966.

When this failed, according to the deposition, the CIA tried to bomb the presidential palace in 1968. A lone B-25 bomber allegedly made two runs over the palace, dropping bombs and leaflets. But the bombs exploded harmlessly on the street outside.

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PRITCHARD is a prominent American concert pianist, who had become a confidant of the Haitian dictator. But in 1966, Pritchard defied an order from Papa Doc and gave a forbidden public concert in Haiti.

This caused the pianist's fall from favor, which the CIA allegedly sought to exploit. As Pritchard has related it to the Rockefeller Commission, the CIA first tried to recruit him to spy on Papa Doc and his palace advisers.

Subsequently, a CIA-paid agent posing as a photographer approached Pritchard about slipping a deadly poison into the dictator's food, the deposition alleges.

The pianist relates that he saw the lethal poison immediately paralyze a small, mouse-like creature, which the agent carried in a cage.

Pritchard states that he not only refused to cooperate with the agent but reported the plot to a U.S. political officer in Haiti. According to Pritchard's testimony, the officer responded: "Wouldn't anything be better than this situation?"

The pianist said he told Papa Doc about the assassination plot and that the dictator was aware of the scheming against his life. Pritchard also tried again to notify the State Department of what the CIA was doing, according to the deposition.

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NEVERTHELESS, the CIA approached him again and tried unsuccessfully to bring pressure on him to work against Papa Doc. Pritchard alleges that in May, 1968, he learned about the bombing attack upon the presidential palace. He was told by Arthur Bonhomme, then the Haitian ambassador to Washington, that the attack had been carried out by the CIA.

Footnote: In early 1971, we described six CIA assassination attempts against Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. We reported names and details. The first attempt, interestingly, was a plot to slip poison pellets in Castro's food.

(Written with Les Whitten)