

SFChronicle JUN 13 1975
CIA Reportedly
Helped in Trujillo
Assassination
Link to

Dissident Dominicans

Washington

The Central Intelligence agency contributed "material support" to a group of Dominicans who assassinated the Dominican Republic's dictator, General Rafael Trujillo Molina on May 30, 1961, authoritative government sources said.

According to the sources, this is one of the "successful assassination attempts" mentioned by Representative James V. Stanton, (Dem.-Ohio), who is the chairman of a House subcommittee investigating the CIA.

The details of the assassination have also been supplied to the Senate Select Committee on intelligence. Several government sources said the Trujillo case also was the successful attempt mentioned recently by the committee's chairman, Senator Frank Church, (Dem.-Idaho).

Information about the Dominican assassination was given to President Ford by CIA Director William E. Colby, in January, authoritative sources said. A CIA spokesman had no comment on the report.

It is unclear what foreign policy objective of the United States would have been served in 1961 by the killing of Trujillo. Several sources, however, said it was part of a "series of events" connected with the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba the month before.

It is also unclear from either public or private reports at how high a level Trujillo's death was authorized. Nor is it clear whether authorization occurred during the administration of President Kennedy, who took office in January, 1961, or that of President Eisenhower, Kennedy's predecessor.

Trujillo was killed by gunfire as he drove from his home in San Cristobal to Ciudad Trujillo, capital of

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Longer story, by Nicholas M. Horrocks, filed CIA (d).

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GENERAL TRUJILLO
Plot Victim

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the Dominican Republic. His death ended 31 years of what had been called an oppressive dictatorship.

The general was killed by seven Dominicans allegedly led by General Juan Tomas Diaz, who was later killed in a gunfight with Dominican policemen.

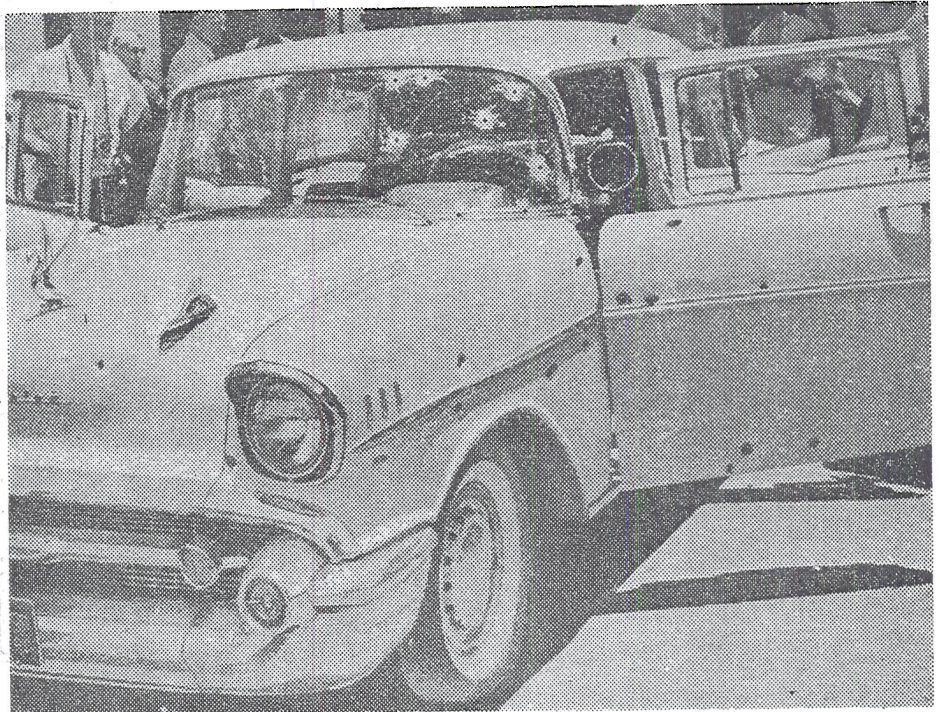
According to authoritative sources, CIA files indicate that the agency supplied "material support" to what one source called an "indigenous" group of Dominicans who plotted and killed Trujillo.

The assassination touched off a massive roundup of op-

ponents of the Trujillo regime. At one point 60 persons had been taken into custody, news accounts said.

According to authoritative sources, one of the men involved in the attack cracked under interrogation, which included torture, and told his captors that at least one of the guns used had been supplied by operatives of the CIA. An account of this is included in documents discovered in the growing investigation of the agency, the sources said.

During the early stages of the investigations of the agency, several of its former officials said that,



This is the bullet-riddled car in which the Dominican Republic dictator was slain on a country road near Ciudad Trujillo in May of 1961

though there might have been plots to assassinate foreign leaders, there had been no "successful attempts."

Other intelligence sources said that that should be amended to "no attempts where Americans actually became involved directly in the killings."

"When this is all said and done," one source said, "I think it will be clear that no member of the CIA or Americans were hired to assassinate Trujillo or Castro. What we are talking about in these cases is aid and comfort to indigenous elements."

"The degree to which the Dominican group got aid," this source said, "may have been more than we now wish."

These sources said the matter of plots against Trujillo and Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba were covered in the page summary prepared by the Rockefeller Commission but not made public in its report.

The material from the commission has been forwarded to the Department of Justice for possible prosecutions.

The memorandum, signed by President Ford, said "I hereby request that you review all of these materials as soon as possible and take such action as you deem warranted as a result of your investigation."

Sources within the Justice Department have said that it is unclear whether the alleged plots against Castro constitute a violation of U.S. law that is within the statute of limitations.

But one key source said, there is a clear federal prohibition against such a plot aimed at Trujillo. According to this source the Dominican Republic was a "friendly nation" in 1961, while Cuba was the subject of diplomatic strictures by the United States.

Under the U.S. Criminal Code it is an illegal act for anyone within the United States if he "knowingly begins or sets foot or provides or prepares a means for or furnishes the money for, or takes part in, any military or naval expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district or people with whom the United States is at peace."

The charge is a felony punishable by a \$3000 fine or imprisonment for not more than three years or both.