

Tape and JFK Assassination Link Denied

MIAMI, Feb. 3 (AP)—Two weeks before President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, a man described to a police informer how it could be done. Dallas was not mentioned in the conversation.

He said a high-powered rifle could be disassembled, taken into an office building, reassembled, and then used for murder.

The conversation, on Nov. 9, 1963, was taped and is now in the files of the Miami Police Department. Its existence was revealed yesterday in a story in the Miami News. Police then played the tape for reporters.

Police would not identify the informer or the man describing the possibilities, who spoke dispassionately in a soft, level accent about bombings in Alabama and Georgia and attempts to kill the President.

MAN WAS PICKED UP AND QUESTIONED

The man who described the assassination possibilities did name one person he said was trying to kill Kennedy. He said, "... (he) is just as likely to get him as anybody. ... He tried to get Martin Luther King ... he followed him for miles and miles, and couldn't get close enough to him."

The potential assassin was described as a hard-core underground agent with a taste for terror bombing.

The newspaper story, written by Bill Barry, said the man who described a possible assassination on the tape was picked up by the FBI five days after President Kennedy was killed in Dallas, and questioned.

The Secret Service and the FBI in Miami would not comment.

But any relation between the taped information and the Kennedy assassination Nov. 22, 1963, was discounted by Assistant State Attorney Arthur Huttoe.

Huttoe said the recording was part of an investigation into the activities of a convicted bomber and others "who used to sit around and threaten to kill a lot of people."

He said the subject on the tape was a member of an extremist group and "in our opinion there is no connection between the death of President Kennedy and this group." Barry said the informer had told police that, as he attended meetings throughout the country, he had heard repeated talk about an assassination attempt.

KENNEDY COMING HERE ON THE 18TH

Because of this talk and because President Kennedy was due in Miami Nov. 18, police asked the informer to lure this man to Miami so his conversation could be recorded, Barry said.

This conversation was on the tape:

Man: "Well we are going to have to get nasty. We have got to be ready. We have just got to be sitting on go. Count down and they move in on you. Count down is all right for a slow, prepared operation. But in an emergency operation you have got to be sitting on go."

Informer: "I think Kennedy is coming here on the 18th, or something like that, to make some kind of speech. He will have a thousand bodyguards."

Man: "The more bodyguards he has, the easier it is to get him."

Informer: "What?"

Man: "The more bodyguards he has, the more easier it is to get him."

Informer: "Well, how in the hell do you figure would be the best way to get him."

Man: "From an office building with a high-powered rifle."

Later, the man said, "... take it (the rifle) up there unassembled and assemble it and ..."

Still later, there was this exchange:
Informer: "Boy, if that Kennedy gets shot, we have got to know where we are at. Because you know that will be a real shake if they do that."

Man: "They wouldn't leave any stone unturned there no way. They will pick up somebody within an hour afterwards ... just to throw the public off."

President Kennedy did come to Miami Nov. 18. Police said they dissuaded him from motorcading through downtown Miami. Instead, he took a helicopter.

Police would give no other indication of what credence they put in the conversation. They said its contents had been turned over to the Secret Service after it was made and before President Kennedy was killed.