

Ex-Chief Confirms**CIA's Castro Plot**LONGER VERSION
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Washington

Former Central Intelligence Agency Director John McCone confirmed yesterday that the CIA planned and undertook some steps to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro in the early 1960s.

McCone said all of the schemes "were aborted" and that the principal effort

was stopped after the Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961.

He said he was not told of the attempts on Castro's life even after he became head of the CIA himself seven months later.

Speaking with newsmen after three hours of closed-door testimony before the Senate Intelligence Opera-

Back Page Col. 6

RMED**From Page 1**

tions Committee, McCone said he became aware of the efforts only in the last few months upon reviewing secret CIA files.

The committee chairman, Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), added that Castro was not the only target of CIA assassination schemes.

The committee is investigating reports and allegations of indirect CIA involvement in the assassinations of Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic in 1961 and of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963.

The CIA also has expressed concern over charges that it may have been connected with the death of Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba who was killed in January, 1961.

In an interview on the CBS

Morning News, Church said "No actual assassination took place with which the CIA was directly involved," but he said the agency did make some actual attempts at assassinations and indicated that it may have been indirectly tied to others that were successful.

McCone said he was questioned not only about Castro, but also about "the South Vietnam situation" in 1963 when Diem was murdered.

He indicated that he had not been able to supply many details about Diem because "I did not expect it to come up" and had not reviewed his notes on that.

Now a Los Angeles business executive, McCone said it is still unclear to him, and apparently to the Senate committee, who gave the orders for the plans to kill Castro.

But he said they were ap-

parently handed down "both at the close of the Eisenhower administration and the early part of the Kennedy administration" in late 1960 and early 1961.

"The authority under which these activities were carried on was authority granted long before my time," said McCone who was sworn in as CIA director on Nov. 29, 1961. "I was totally unaware of any attempts on Castro."

However, he said that in reviewing various files within the last few months, "I have been aware of certain actions which were either planned or some actually undertaken, all of which were aborted and all of which are of a minor nature."

McCone said the chain of command for the assassination schemes against Castro was still murky "because the people involved are dead," including Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy, former Attorney General Robert Kennedy, former CIA director Allen Dulles, and former secretaries of state John Foster Dulles and Christian Herter.

Castro's assassination, or "liquidation or disposal. I've forgotten the exact words," McCone said, was raised again at a high level meeting on Aug. 10, 1962, in light of reports that Soviet-made nuclear missiles were about to be installed in Cuba.

But McCone said, "it was disposed of immediately at my insistence . . . (it was) quite outside the moral standards of the United States, the CIA and my own standards."

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