

Castro's 'Threat' To Kill Kennedys

Las Vegas

Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, who learned of a CIA plot enlisting underworld figures to assassinate him after the Bay of Pigs incident, vowed revenge against the Kennedys that led to their murders. The Las Vegas Sun reported yesterday in a copyrighted story by publisher Hank Greenspun.

Greenspun said documents in his possession and evidence in the hands of the congressional intelligence committees supported the charge.

Files in Greenspun's newspaper office safe were the target of a "plumbers" burglary, according to Watergate investigators. The contents of the safe were never disclosed, but there was speculation that it contained documentation of political contributions by billionaire Howard Hughes to former President Nixon.

Robert Maheu, an ex-FBI agent who worked for the CIA and headed Hughes' Nevada operations until 1970, told the Senate select committee on intelligence last August that he was ordered by the CIA in 1960 to contact underworld figures who had gambling ties in Cuba to carry out a plan to assassinate Castro.

"...there is now credible evidence of Castro's purpose to respond to the attempts on his life by ordering the assassination of President Kennedy," Greenspun wrote yesterday. The story said Castro met with officials from South and Latin American states shortly after an attempt on his life in 1963 and told the assembly "the Kennedys

have sought to kill me; I shall mete out the same justice to them."

The Senate intelligence report in November said it found at least eight plots involving the CIA to assassinate Castro from 1960 to 1965. The report said the CIA was plotting the murder of Castro the same day President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

Greenspun said there were five overt attempts to assassinate Castro, the last in the spring before President Kennedy was killed.

The Senate committee report said Maheu recruited John Roselli, an underworld figure with business interests in Havana and gambling ties in Las Vegas, to hire Cubans to carry out an assassination attempt.

"Castro agents captured a CIA assassin and tortured him into revealing to Castro personally, the entire plot to kill him," said Greenspun. "What is most significant is that Castro's threat was to the 'Kennedys' and not to the President alone. This becomes even more meaningful in light of the subsequent assassinations of both John and Robert Kennedy.

"Evidence in my possession, coupled with documents in the hands of congressional intelligence agency oversight committees provides a clearly marked trail leading to logical conclusions as to why the Kennedy brothers were killed. That path leads straight to the door of a vengeful Castro," said the Greenspun story.

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