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Fidel Castro and Jack Ruby, discussed "removal of the president" at a meeting ten weeks before President Kennedy's assassination, according to Watergate burglar and one-time Central Intelligence Agency agent Frank Sturgis.

Sturgis said in an interview Thursday that he had been assigned to investigage possible involvement of Cuban exiles in the assassination.

The investigation failed to show any Cuban exile links he said. But it produced evidence that Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and Ruby, who shot Oswald after the assassination, were "involved in the same conspiracy, along with other peple," Sturgis said.

"Government agencies got quite a bit of information about this, not only from myself but from other intelligence sources in the U.S.," he said.

Sturgis declined to say what agency had ordered the investigation and would not reveal his source for the information of the Havana meeting.

Sturgis said he and "other agents" gave information of the meeting to several government agencies in 1964, while the Warren commission was still conducting hearings, but he did not know whether the information reached the commission.

"If thexe was a coverup, the White House ordered the coverup," Sturgis said.

Sturgis said the Havana meeting included Castro, Raul Castro, Ernesto (Che) Guevara, Cuban intelligence chief Ramiro Valdez and an Argentine woman who was a Soviet Intelligence agent.

Sturgis said Ruby made several trips to Cuba in the months preceding Kennedy's death "trying to make a deal to sell arms to Cuba and to try to make a deal to obtain illicit drugs through Cuba for smuggling into the United States.

"At the meeting with Castro, sale of guns and the drug deal were discussed along with removal of the president, an attempt on the president's life," Sturgis said.

"I am not putting it all on Castro. Other governments knew of the plot to kill the president. There was an opportunity there for retaliation by certain foreign governments," he said. Associated Press