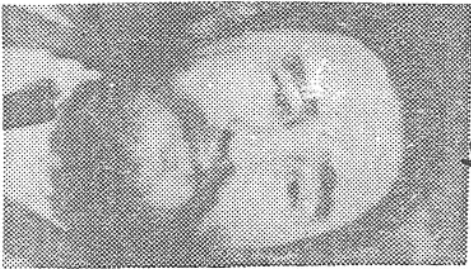


Knowlton Journal

'Insane' to join JFK plot, says Castro

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By The Associated Press



Fidel Castro
Feared U.S. invasion

WASHINGTON — Fidel Castro, in an interview made public Tuesday, told House investigators it would have been "insane" for him to have conspired in John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Castro said his involvement in any murder plot would have given the U.S. government "the most perfect pretext" for an invasion of the island nation. The Cuban president also repeated his belief that an effort was made by someone in the United States to implicate him in Kennedy's Nov. 22, 1963 assassination.

Portions of Castro's interview were played by the House assassinations committee, which is seeking to tie up the loose ends to Kennedy's assassination so that a report can be issued in December.

In his interview with House investigators and committee members last April, Castro contended it would have been insane for him to play a role in Kennedy's murder.

"That would have been the most perfect pretext for the United States to invade our country, which is what I have tried to prevent for all these years, in

every possible sense," he said.

Castro also said he suspects that accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's effort to get into Cuba two months before the assassination "was a deliberate attempt to link Cuba to Kennedy's death."

"I said to myself, 'What would have happened had by any chance that man come to Cuba, visited Cuba, gone back to the United States and then appeared involved in Kennedy's death?'" Castro said.

"That would have really been a provocation — a gigantic provocation," the Cuban leader added.

Castro was asked about a comment he had made in a Sept. 7, 1963, interview with The Associated Press. In that interview, Castro had warned that death plots against him could backfire.

The Cuban leader maintained that the statement was not given "as a threat ... My intention in saying what I said ... was to warn the government that we know about the plots against our lives."

"But I did not mean to threaten by that," Castro continued. "... I did not mean by that that we were going to take measures, similar measures, like a retaliation for that."



Lee Harvey Oswald
Tried to link Cuba?