

Anti-CIA charges

Castro murder 'considered'

WASHINGTON (AP) — High-level intelligence officials in the Kennedy administration discussed plans to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, according to a former CIA official.

Richard Bissell, who directed the agency's covert foreign operations from 1959 to 1962, said Monday that he told the Rockefeller Commission investigating the CIA that the assassination of Castro "was considered... but it wasn't carried out."

According to Bissell, the scheme was rejected by then-CIA director Allen W. Dulles.

Bissell spoke to a reporter after testifying before the commission. Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, head of the eight-member panel investigating allegations of CIA domestic wrongdoing, declined to confirm Bissell's testimony.

Instead, the vice president repeated earlier statements that the commission would investigate alleged assassination plots only if they violated domestic statutes.

As Bissell recounted it, his testimony appeared to support state-

ments made by a variety of persons about CIA plots against Castro.

Most recently, convicted Water-gate burglar Frank Sturgis said in an interview with the New York Daily News that he was part of a CIA plot to assassinate Castro in 1960. Sturgis said the attempt was never made because officials in Washington "couldn't make up their minds."

Bissell, who resigned as deputy CIA director for plans following the Bay of Pigs, said he did not know whether President Kennedy was aware of the CIA discussions about killing Castro.

Informed sources say that the Rockefeller commission is investigating whether the CIA withheld information from the Warren Commission during that panel's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. Reports have suggested that the CIA may have resisted furnishing information to the Warren Commission in an effort to cover up CIA involvement in plots on Castro's life.

In the latest of its series of Sturgis' revelations about the CIA, the Daily News reported today that re-

nown ballerina Margot Fonteyn was arrested by South American authorities, and she and her husband were investigated by the CIA in 1959 in connection with a bizarre plan to invade Panama.

Movie stars John Wayne and the late Errol Flynn also were mentioned and investigated in the alleged plot but they were found not linked to it.

Sturgis told the News the Panama invasion plot was dreamed up by William Morgan, an Ohio-born adventurer who became a major in Castro's army.

The conspirators planned to overthrow the Panamanian government and grab the canal, "for propaganda and extortion reasons," it was said.

Aiding in the scheme were Dame Margot and her husband, Roberto Arias, former Panamanian ambassador to Britain and the son of a former president of Panama, the story said. The couple was assigned to bury arms and munitions on a beach, so they would be available to the plotters, according to the News.

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Estimate of gas reserves in South Texas run high

HOUSTON (AP) — World Oil magazine reported Tuesday that preliminary estimates of natural gas reserves discovered in new South Texas fields south of Laredo run as high as 10 trillion cubic feet.

The publication said at least 1,000 wells will be needed to develop the 3,000 square mile region in which five new gas fields have been discovered in two years.

"Seventeen operators, including majors and independents, are producing or drilling more than 100 wells in the 100-mile strip along the Rio Grande," the magazine reported.

"Free market intrastate gas prices up to \$2 per 1,000 cubic feet are continuing to accelerate drilling in Webb and Zapata counties."

An article in the publication's May edition said between 15 and 20 rigs continue to seek reserves for the Texas intrastate market.

"The area is far from being developed, but preliminary reserves estimates range from as low as one to as high as 10 trillion cubic feet,"

the article said. "This wide variation in estimates reflects the complex geology in the area, which has resulted in dry holes being drilled in areas considered to be proven."

World Oil described the area's high rate of activity as "a text book example of how the producing industry responds to free market prices which provide adequate incentive to explore for hydrocarbon reserves."

"If gas in the area were limited in price, as is gas sold in interstate commerce, it is extremely doubtful whether the play would have developed," the article said.

There has been no official estimates of reserves. Industry sources have been reluctant to discuss the outlook except for general statements that the prospects, with full development, are encouraging.

Worldwide, there are about 150 gas fields with reserves in excess of one trillion cubic feet, including about 50 in the United States. The nation's largest field in reserve is the

Hugoton Basin in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas with an estimated 72 trillion cubic feet.

World Oil said the area was known to be productive 10 years ago when the R. S. Nixon estate completed the Malkoff No. 1, a Wilcox geologic formation discovery with a calculated open flow of 6.4 million cubic feet of gas a day.

"However, the low gas prices of that time could not support the expense of drilling wells 5,000 to 7,000 feet deep nor the cost of fracturing the tight Wilcox gas sand," the article said.

World Oil says the play is now moving into high gear and that Lovaca Gas Gathering Co. already is receiving about 85 million cubic feet of gas a day from wells on production.

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