

U.S. considers charges in death plots

WASHINGTON — Justice Department officials are still weighing whether to bring charges against those involved in the assassination plots described by the Senate intelligence committee.

Department officials are studying a series of statutes for possible use in any prosecution, including a cover-up charge. A spokesman says that Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi will either seek indictments or publicly explain why not in a report on his department's investigation into all categories of alleged CIA wrongdoing.

In its 346-page report made public Thursday, the committee said U.S. officials had instigated at least eight assassination plots against Cuba's Fidel Castro and had launched another scheme to kill Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba.

The panel also described the U.S. government as implicated in the killing of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo.

Of the nine foreign leaders mentioned in the

report, only Fidel Castro and his brother Raul are still alive.

But the committee said, "No foreign leaders were killed as a result of assassination plots initiated by officials of the United States."

Ford, CIA didn't comment

Neither President Ford nor the CIA commented on the report.

The panel noted with surprise that "there is presently no statute making it a crime to assassinate a foreign official outside the United States" and urged Congress to enact such a law.

Its report told of a CIA official at the agency's old Washington headquarters who was asked to develop plans to kill Lumumba in 1960. The report raised the prospect "that conspiracy to commit murder being done in the District of Columbia might be in violation of federal law."

A second official, Richard Bissell, then head of the agency's clandestine services, "airily dismissed" the prospect, according to evidence

submitted to the committee.

Justice Department officials say they are examining the possibility of prosecutions based on any cover-up of the assassination plots. To bring such a charge they would first have to decide that a crime had been committed.

In considering that decision, the law that Justice Department officials are examining most closely makes it a felony to instigate, support or take part in "any military or naval expedition or enterprise" against leaders of a foreign country with which the United States is at peace.

Department officials say the key legal question in determining whether that law was violated is the definition of a military enterprise.

Prosecution directly under this law would be limited to those acts committed within the last five years, and only one incident in the committee report falls in that time period. But a cover-up can extend long beyond the original crime.

The department is studying federal conspiracy laws and the possibility of referring a matter for prosecution under state laws on which the time limit for prosecution may not have run out, such as conspiracy to commit murder.

Levi last June said: "If we were talking about assassinations, I guess we really don't have a statute of limitations."

For legislation making it a crime for any U.S. official or citizen to conspire, attempt or engage in the assassination of a foreign leader.

The Senate committee report, fruit of a still-incomplete, six-month investigation, was released by the panel after the Senate spurned appeals by the President to keep it secret. Ford wrote Senate leaders Thursday that publication would not be in the national interest.

In a closed session of nearly four hours, the Senate debated how to handle the report, but ultimately took no votes, either to block or endorse the document.

In addition to the Castro and Lumumba plots and the Trujillo affair, government officials also were aware of plots against South Vietnamese president Ngo Dinh Diem and Chilean army chief Rene Schneider where "the risk of death" existed, the committee said.

The 11-member panel also said it came across "evidence of CIA involvement in plans to assassinate President Sukarno of Indonesia and 'Papa Doc' Duvalier of Haiti." Assassination plots against Castro "sometimes contemplated action against Raul Castro and Che Guevara" as well, the committee found.

According to the report, there was enough evidence "to permit a reasonable inference that the plot to assassinate Lumumba was authorized by (then) President Eisenhower" but stopped short of a finding that "the President intended an assassination effort."

The committee also said "there was insufficient evidence" that, while in office, Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy or Lyndon B. Johnson or any of their close advisers authorized the assassination of Castro.

However, the committee held out the possibility that various presidents may have purposely obscured their role in assassination and added, "Each must bear the ultimate responsibility for the activities of his subordinates."

The committee "found concrete evidence of at least eight plots involving the CIA to assassinate Fidel Castro from 1960 to 1965" using a variety of devices that "ran the gamut from high-powered rifles to poison pills, poison pens, deadly bacterial powders and other devices which strain the imagination."

On at least two occasions the plots "progressed to the point of sending poison pills to Cuba and dispatching teams to commit the deed," the report said.

Today's high 55
 Today's low 27
 Tomorrow's high 55
 Chance of precipitation today None
 Chance of precipitation tomorrow None

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Light freeze expected tonight. Cold today and tomorrow with winds 15 mph.

Candidate security strained, U.S. says

MIAMI — The Secret Service, faced with two attacks on President Ford and one on presidential candidate Ronald Reagan within three months, is "over-extended" by the current large field of presidential candidates, says a top service official.

"It's going to get worse, and there are more candidates on the way," said Bob Newbrand, special agent in charge of the Secret Service office in Miami following the attack Thursday on Reagan by a young man wielding a toy gun.

Newbrand said that the service was augmented by agents from U.S. customs and other federal agencies, but "we're very thin right now."

"We're over-extended at this stage and we're a couple of months from the first primary," he said.

In Washington, Secret Service spokesman Jack Warner said, "I just have to place that as one supervisor's opinion. I would not say our manpower is over-extended. I would say in this period the Secret Service manpower will be utilized to its utmost capacity."

Warner said the agency had budgeted with the expectation of protecting 10 to 14 candidates. There now are 12 announced presidential candidates, 10 Democrats, Ford and Reagan.

Secret Service protects candidates.

Warner said the agency is now protecting six candidates in addition to Ford and Reagan. They are Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, R. Sa-

rgent Shriver, 1972 Democratic Vice Presidential candidate; Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh, Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter; Arizona Rep. Morris Udall, and Texas Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen.

The young man with the toy pistol Thursday was about a yard from where Reagan was shaking hands with well wishers.

He was identified as Michael Lance Carvin,

20, of Pompano Beach, and was charged with intimidating a presidential candidate and assaulting a federal officer, Newbrand said. Maximum penalties are one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine on the intimidation charge and three years in prison and \$5,000 fine on the assault charge.

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Reagan undaunted by toy-gun episode

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Ronald Reagan, undaunted by a toy-gun incident in Miami, fielded questions about some of his favorite topics from a New Hampshire audience and then completed his first day of presidential campaigning with a 30-minute autograph session.

Security was tight as Secret Service agents checked handbags and tape recorders of the more than 900 persons entering the convention hall in Bedford, N.H., where the former Hollywood actor and California governor participated in what campaign aides called a "Citizen's Press Conference."

See Reagan, Page 3.

Reagan remained overnight in New Hampshire, which has the nation's first primary Feb. 24. He was to fly to Charlotte, N.C., and then on to Chicago and Los Angeles today, ending his first campaign swing after announcing formally Thursday his challenge to President Ford for the GOP nomination.

Reagan flew to New Hampshire from Miami, where he encountered a man wielding a plastic toy pistol as he shook hands after the first rally of his campaign. The man, identified as Michael Lance Carvin, 20, of Pompano, Fla., was grabbed by Secret Service agents and Reagan was hustled away.

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Chopper

Staff photo by David McCarroll

It was play army time again Thursday for the Corps. This HC-53 helicopter, full of Corps Cadets, could be seen churning its way through the skies of Aggieland most of the day. The chopper used the polo field as a base of operations.

TOP OF THE NEWS

Campus

"BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID", starring Robert Redford, Paul Newman and Katherine Ross, will be shown Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Theater. Admission will be \$1.

THE STUDENT Y THANKSGIVING service will be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel. Rev. Malcolm Bane, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of College Station will officiate, music will be presented by the Century Singers. Everyone is invited.

FORMER TEXAS GOV. JOHN CONNALLY said yesterday in Houston that Ronald Reagan's entry into the battle for the Republican presidential nomination will create "some interest" and he wouldn't be surprised if Reagan wins the primaries in New Hampshire and Florida.

He spoke at a meeting of the National Industrial Traffic League and said he does not view a challenge to President Ford by Reagan as a divisive factor in the Republican party.

City

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS parade will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. down Texas Ave. from University Dr. to Villa Maria.

The parade will feature local high school bands, the Texas Aggie band and floats.

Before the parade, the downtown Bryan merchants will sponsor an air show and ping pong ball drop.

Ping pong balls will be dropped along Texas Ave. Each ball is worth a 10 per cent discount off any one purchase at participating stores in Bryan Saturday.

Forty of the balls will be worth prizes of up to \$30 in cash.

resident Francisco da Costa Gomes' palace. The suspension of government was aimed at pressuring Costa Gomes into giving the moderate administration the full support of the politically split armed forces.

RUSSIAN SPACE OFFICIALS left the Johnson Space Center today, ending a series of meetings over the past three years in both countries which made possible the first manned international space mission.

Professor Konstantin D. Bushuyev, Russian technical director of the flight said at a news conference at the space center yesterday that he regrets that the two countries will not have another joint mission until 1980. The United States plans no cooperative space missions until the space shuttle program is ready.

THE SOVIET-BACKED Popular Movement army in Angola, reportedly strengthened by Cuban reinforcements, has halted a spectacular advance by its opponents from the south, the Johannesburg Star said yesterday. In Luanda, informed sources recently said that 2,500 Cuban combat troops have been flown to the country to bolster the MPLA.

NYC may get state tax help

ALBANY, N. Y. — The state legislature appears ready to enact a \$200 million New York City tax-increase package — including a 10 per cent hike in city residents' income taxes — that it believes necessary to get President Ford's approval for federal help to permanently rescue the city from default.

State officials also said late Thursday they are "very near" completing a \$150 million financial arrangement to help the city avert a possible default next week.

The city survived a near brush with default on Thursday, when the state's Municipal Assistance Corp. scraped together \$100 million and rushed it to the city treasury to help meet a \$127 million payroll.

But before that transaction, the city had briefly held up delivery of tens of thousands of paychecks to city employees. The checks, which eventually were distributed, were dated today, but traditionally the city has delivered them a day ahead of time.

A similar confrontation with financial collapse is now threatened for next Tuesday, when officials say the city is short about \$60 million needed to meet various obligations.

But Gov. Hugh Carey said Thursday that officials were "very close" to gathering some \$150 million needed to clear that hurdle and keep the city afloat until Dec. 11 — enough time, Carey hopes, for Congress and the President to agree

Recent Soviet nuclear tests spew debris

WASHINGTON — Two of Russia's recent big underground nuclear tests apparently have spewed some radioactive debris into the atmosphere, U.S. intelligence sources report.

Radioactive gaseous debris was collected outside Russia's territory following a 3.8-megaton test on Oct. 15 and a two-megaton blast on Oct. 21, sources said. A megaton is the equivalent of one million tons of TNT.

The tests were conducted on the Soviet island of Novaya Zemlya in the Arctic.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union are pushing underground testing of larger nuclear weapons so they can complete development programs before next April when a new treaty goes into effect.



Ticket time

Hope springs eternal in Aggieland. Despite the cold, Aggies turned out in force Thursday for the honor of waiting in line for tickets to the A&M-UT game to be played in Kyle Field, November 28. At times the lines extended into and along the street.

Staff photo by David McCarroll

Houston firm charged with unfair dealing

Charges have been filed in Brazos County Court against a Houston company for deceptive business practices by its local branch.

County Attorney Roland M. Searcy said Thursday the charges allege that Mobile Home Brokers, Inc., at 3300 S. Texas Ave., "made materially false and misleading statements to a prospective purchaser of a mobile home." The customer, Robert L. Bradberry of Huntsville, relied on these statements and purchased a mobile home from the company, Searcy said.

If convicted in county court, the firm could pay a fine of up to \$2,000. The charge is a Class A misdemeanor.

Searcy said his office has received numerous complaints about misleading and deceptive practices.

"Our policy is to thoroughly investigate the charges and vigorously prosecute businessmen who knowingly and recklessly take advantage of Brazos County consumers," Searcy said.



Marilyn Horne

Staff photo by Douglas Winship

Operatic soprano Marilyn Horne flaunted her skill before a relatively sparse audience in the Rudder Auditorium Thursday night. Horne was presented by OPAS.