Probe goes on

Castro denies foreknowledge of JFK assassination

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Did Fidel Castro know in advance that Lee Harvey Oswald would kill President John F. Kennedy?

The Cuban leader vehemently insisted to House Assassination Committee members in Havana last April that he did not know Oswald was going to kill the president and, if he had known, "it would have been our moral responsibility to inform the United States."

The committee touched on the subject during hearings Monday. Two former Cuban consuls in Mexico City and a Mexican secretary for the consulate denied that Oswald mentioned anything about Kennedy or assassinations when he applied for and was refused a Cuban transit visa a few weeks before the Nov. 22, 1963, murder.

The committee left for further discussion Tuesday a paragraph in its prepared commentary which was issued by the committee Monday. The paragraph said that despite Castro's denial of an alleged 1967 interview discussing foreknowledge, "the committee has been informed that the substance of the . . . article is supported by highly confidential but reliable sources available to the United States government."

Staff Counsel G. Robert Blakey never got to read that paragraph before the session was adjourned until Tuesday.

He cautioned that it should not be taken at face value, since the committee at this stage is only presenting "both sides of the argument" and has not revealed its own position.

At Monday's hearing, the committee entered as evidence the text of an interview British free lance journalist Comer Clark is said to have had with Castro, published in the National Enquirer in 1967.

Castro was quoted as saying:

"Yes, I heard of Lee Harvey Oswald's plan to kill President Kennedy. It's possible that I could have saved him. I might have been able to — but I didn't. I never believed the plan would be put into effect."

Clark said Castro told him that when Oswald went to the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City in 1963 he offered to work for Cuba and "then said something like: 'Someone ought to shoot that President Kennedy . Maybe I'll try it'."

The committee said Clark died in 1972 but an investigation into his background and reputation for veracity showed "it was not good."

An excerpt from what Castro told the committee about the alleged interview was released Monday.

"This is absurd," it quoted Castro as saying.

Rape victim names not open records, Hill rules after Battalion request

The Texas Attorney General ruled that the names of rape or attempted rape victims in the files of university police are not open records, in a letter to James B. Bond, general counsel of Texas A&M University.

The letter received earlier this week was in response to a written request on March 8, 1978, for access to University Police records by a Battalion reporter.

Citing the Texas Open Records Act, the reporter asked to "know the names of the victims, time and place of attack, and circumstances surrounding the attack," for the period of March 1977 through March 1978.

Under the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, any records the university police may keep for law enforcement, apart from educational records, are not available to anyone other than law enforcement officials of the same jurisdiction and are not open records, Attorney General John Hill said.

If police records are seen by people other than those in law enforcement, or if academic records are open to university police, the student must first give permission before they can be released.

Bond said he declined to comment on the letter until other university officials have been consulted.

Aggie Tidbits

The "Elephant Walk" occurs before the Thanksgiving Day football game each year. Seniors gather in front of the flagpole on Military Walk, near the Corps quad, to wander aimlessly about the campus like old elephants about to die. This ceremony symbolizes the fact that seniors that will graduate the following spring will be of no further use to Texas A&M students.

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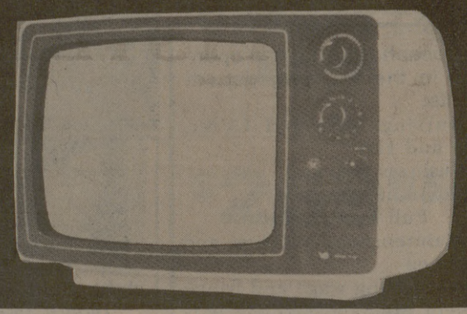

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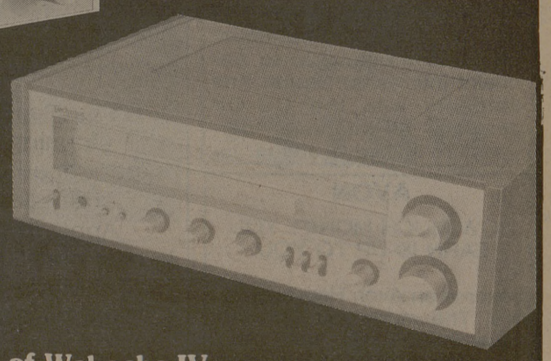

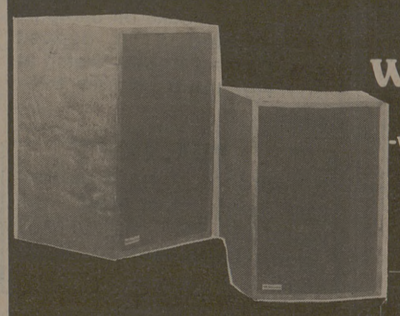

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