

~~TOP SECRET DENIAL~~

4 Dec 63

1. CUBAN REACTION TO DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

On 27 November

EXEMPT

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reported the following:

EXEMPT

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"Soon after the death of [President]

Kennedy several authorities and persons associated with the Cuban Government openly expressed to us their concerns relative to the consequences in regard to Cuba and were unanimous in believing that any other President would be 'even worse.'

"Another concern of the Cubans was expounded in the unexpected speech by Fidel Castro on Saturday when he accused the news agencies of trying to connect the Soviet Union and Cuba to the crime and asserted that the reactionaries of the United States are trying to create 'a state of anti-Soviet and anti-Cuban hysteria.'

"Further, yesterday the Foreign Ministry in an EXEMPT confirmed that the indicated assassin tried to obtain a visa to Cuba without success and repeated that reactionary sectors tried,

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in that way, to involve beforehand Cuba and the Soviet Union in the events and are trying now to cover up the masterminds and real motives for the crime:

"There was no official announcement here of sorrow for the death of the President of the United States."

Note: On 23 November the EXEMPT had reported the following:

"The reaction in Havana to the assassination of President Kennedy has been calm but cautious. Only isolated Communist groups have shown any rejoicing. The radio and newsreels are reporting objectively and in a correct manner, without showing regret ----- [words missing] statement by the government. The newspapers are printing today the statements of the Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations.*

*On 23 November Cuban UN delegate Lechuga stated in New York that Cuba had received the news of the tragic death of President Kennedy with deep sorrow; that all civilized men always grieved about such events; and that this was the feeling of the people and Government of Cuba.

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"----- [word missing] circles were seriously concerned over the repercussions which the assassination of the President of the United States may have."