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Subject: FBI DOCUMENT RAISES NEW JFK ASSASSINATION ISSUE
12/20/95 3:14 PM Copyright 1995 Reuters Ltd. All rights reserved. By Jim Wolf WASHINGTON (Reuter) - A previously censored FBI document made public Wednesday shows the bureau had secret ties to the father of an anti-Castro Cuban leader once investigated in the assassination of President John Kennedy. The Nov. 30, 1963 memo by the agent in charge of the FBI's Chicago field office referred to Homerio Echevarria, a Cuban said by the Secret Service to warrant further investigation as part of a possible assassination plot. But any mention of the FBI's link to Echevarria's father, Ebelia, had been blacked out in a version of the document made public by the Federal Bureau of Investigation earlier. "Ebelia Echevarria has furnished general information regarding Cuban matters to (the FBI) Chicago office as (a) source of information," the previously secret portion said. Along with hundreds of other pages containing once-secret material, the memo was made public by the Assassinations Record Review Board, an independent federal body responsible for overseeing release of records related to the 1963 killing. The new information about the FBI's link to Echeverria's father may raise questions about why the bureau failed to follow up on the Secret Service's interest in the son. In 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations faulted the FBI for not looking deeper into the younger Echevarria, who had been quoted by a Secret Service informant as having discussed an illegal arms sale on Nov. 21, 1963, the day before Kennedy was shot in Dallas. Echevarria was quoted as saying his group had "plenty of money" to mount an anti-Castro operation and that his backers would go ahead "as soon as we take care of Kennedy," the House panel cited a Secret Service memo as saying. The committee said it had been unable to substantiate the content of the informant's alleged conversations with Echevarria or any link to the assassination. But it said it had established "that the original judgment of the Secret Service was correct, that the Echevarria case did warrant a thorough investigation." It said the FBI "did not pursue the Echevarria case." The House panel found that Echevarria's group, known as the 30th of November, was financed by the Junta del Gobierno de Cubo en el Exilio, a Chicago-based coalition of anti-Castro groups with alleged links to organized crime. It said the umbrella group, founded in April 1963 and dissolved soon after the assassination, had backed the activities of militant groups reportedly in contact with Lee Harvey Oswald. The presidentially appointed Warren Commission said in its 1964 report that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy by firing three shots from the Texas Book Depository. But the House committee concluded in its 1979 report that Kennedy was probably the victim of a conspiracy that could have involved organized crime or Cubans opposed to President Fidel Castro. The FBI press office, its ranks thinned by a partial government shutdown due to an impasse over the budget, could not be reached for comment on the Record

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