

TO: Jeremy Gunn
FROM: Eric Scheinkopf
RE: Summary of Lawrence Houston testimony
before the Church Committee 6/2/75

DATE: May 1, 1995

FILE: 4.0.2 (Houston)

The following information are what I believe were the highlights from Mr. Houston's testimony before the Church Committee. The full text of his testimony follows.

The Houston testimony focused on questions from Senator Mondale and the committee regarding the various efforts to assassinate Castro. With regard to other assassinations, Mr. Houston said he had "no specific knowledge, any official information. (Page 3).

With regard to first hearing about efforts to assassinate Castro, Mr. Houston said he first heard about this in the spring of 1962. He says he was briefed on this shortly before going to brief the Attorney General (page 6). Subsequently in the testimony, there is mention of a buck slip memorandum from Houston to RFK dated May 15, 1962 which is not in the Houston material at the NARA (page 10).

According to Mr. Houston's testimony (page 12) it was Shef Edwards who briefed him prior to his meeting with the Attorney General. The exchange on the next page with Mr. Schwarz has Mr. Houston noting "it was [my] understanding that the assassination plan aimed at Castro had been terminated completely." This remark was preceded by his recollection that Colonel Edwards said that both Roselli and Giancana were "informed that the operations were terminated and no further effort should be made."

Later in the testimony (page 25), Mr. Houston talks about pressure from the Attorney General regarding Castro and that it was directed not only to the CIA but also to DoD.

Mr. Houston was also asked who he believed, from his own knowledge and not what Mr. Helms "necessarily" told him, knew about assassination plans against Castro (page 28). Mr. Houston answered that "it is clear that General Carter was aware."

Redactions appear on pages 46-47 where surveillance methods are discussed.

On page 68, Mr. Houston was asked if he had anything to do with the activities of the CIA in connection with the Warren Commission inquiry. Houston replied "Very little. The channels established on those were primarily through the CI staff..."

On page 75, some operations involving Mr. Harvey are redacted.

On page 81, Houston says he did not recall his ever having issued a position paper on the subject of

assassinations.

FILE NAME (houston.wpd)