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Executive Registry
78-730

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

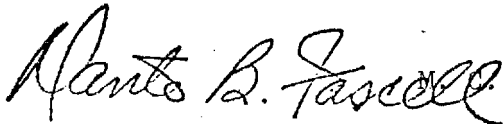
March 2, 1978 19

Adm. Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Sir:

The attached communication
is sent for your consideration.
Please investigate the statements
contained therein and forward me
the necessary information for re-
ply, returning the enclosed corre-
spondence with your answer.

Yours truly,



DANTE B. FASCELL
904 Federal Building
Miami, Florida 33130

CIA studied ways to make person kill against his will, memos show

The New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — The CIA studied whether a person could be induced secretly to commit an assassination against his will, newly released government documents show.

The study was disclosed in a series of 1954 memos made public under a Freedom of Information Act request by The New York Times and others. The documents were prepared as part of Operation Artichoke, one of four CIA programs to conduct mind-control experiments between 1949 and 1974.

Documents do not indicate that the CIA tried to use mind control in any actual assassination attempt. However, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence reported in 1976 that the CIA plotted three assassinations and became indirectly involved in several others.

Several groups have scrutinized the Artichoke documents from the standpoint of whether they may provide any evidence in the inquiries into the assassination of President John Kennedy or the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Members of a nonprofit group, the Assassination Information Bureau, noted the security officer for Artichoke, Sheffield Edwards, later was the CIA man assigned to form the assassination team that tried to kill Fidel Castro.

According to the documents, an "artichoke team,"

which usually included interrogation experts, drug experts and psychiatrists or psychologists, was asked to "give an evaluation of a hypothetical problem in January, 1954:

"Can an individual of (deleted nationality) descent be made to perform an act of attempted assassination involuntarily under the influence of Artichoke?"

The memo, which like most documents released by the agency has names of individuals, government agencies or locations deleted, described the following "problem."

"As a 'trigger mechanism,' for a bigger project, it was proposed that an individual, of (deleted) descent, approximately 35 years old, well educated, proficient in English and well established socially and politically in the (deleted) government be induced under Artichoke to perform an act, involuntarily, against a prominent (deleted) politician or if necessary, against an American official."

At another point it noted "access to the subject would be extremely limited, probably limited to a single social meeting. Because the subject is a heavy drinker, it was proposed that the individual could be surreptitiously drugged through the medium of an alcoholic cocktail at a social party, Artichoke applied, and the subject induced to perform the act of attempting assassination at some later date.

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