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# Document Release Shows CIA Plot to Kill Castro

New documents released by the CIA recently show that the CIA did attempt to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro in the early 1960's.

As the Bush administration faces criticism for being too secretive, the CIA recently declassified hundreds of pages of secret records, known in the CIA as the "Family Jewels", documenting the agency's last 25 years of assassination attempts, domestic spying and kidnapping.

One document revealed how the agency tapped the phone of two Washington reporters in 1963 to find out who was providing their information. "The intercept activity was particularly productive," the documents said.

Another detailed how the agency kept a KGB defector confined in a specially created 'jail' for over two years with nothing but a cot.

Many of the documents contain details on the Watergate Scandal involving Richard Nixon in 1974, including information on a break-in at Democratic headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in June 1972.

One of the biggest shocks is the sheer amount of domestic surveillance that was carried out.

The "Family Jewels" provide evidence that the CIA did in fact approach John "Handsome Johnny" Roselli, a mafia mobster to try to persuade him to kill Castro in 1960. The agency offered Roselli \$150,000

for the job, but told him that the United States government was not and should not, become aware of the operation.

As the plot developed, six pills of "high lethal content" were given to Juan Orta, a Cuban official who had been receiving kickback payments from gambling interests, who still had access to Castro and was in a financial bind.

"After several weeks of reported attempts, Orta apparently got cold feet and asked out of the assignment. He suggested another candidate who made several attempts without success," the document said.

One intelligence expert said the intelligence community should release more recent information that examined its counterterrorism capabilities at the time of the September 11, 2001, hijacking attacks.

"If they really want to improve intelligence the executive branch would

wife's computer tower after a 2am argument in their bedroom, reports the Times Tribune.

After returning home in the early hours, Mr Griffith allegedly became angry that his wife was chatting with men on MySpace.

Police say he dragged her upstairs, shot the computer and fired another bullet into the floor.

Nobody was injured in the incident.

## Berlin hotel harks back to bad old days

A Berlin hotel is giving its guests a taste of communist East Germany.

Ostel takes its guests back to a pre-1989 era of ugly brown and orange wallpaper, spartan furnishings and Politburo portraits.

The hotel, which opened

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declassify those documents, not who was figuring out how to get Castro's beard to fall out," said UCLA professor Amy Ziegart, who has advised politicians on foreign policy and national security.

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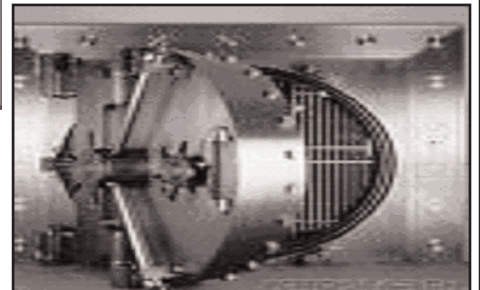
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