

Oswald Reportedly Told Cubans of Plan to Kill JFK

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Justice Department has discovered a 1964 memorandum by the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover saying that Lee Harvey Oswald reportedly told Cuban officials in advance of President Kennedy's assassination that he intended to kill the President.

Informed sources said yesterday that Hoover, in the memo, attributed this information to a highly reliable informant who claimed to have been told it personally by Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Castro, according to the memo, reportedly said he had been advised by officials of the Cuban embassy in Mexico City that they had met with Oswald before the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of Kennedy in Dallas and that Oswald informed them of his intentions.



LEE HARVEY OSWALD
... Hoover memo found

The assertions reported in the Hoover memo go further than any information currently on the record concerning alleged statements made by Oswald in a previously disclosed visit to the

Cuban embassy in Mexico City prior to the murder of Kennedy.

There has been persistent surmise about a possible involvement of the Castro government in the murder of Kennedy, possibly as a counter stroke against CIA efforts to assassinate the Cuban leader.

There has also been speculation that the assassination may have been the work of Cuban-exile terrorists. However, all of these reports have been fourth- or fifth-hand accounts originating with informants of doubtful reliability.

The Hoover memo was described by the sources as having been addressed to the Warren Commission, appointed by former President Johnson to investigate the assassination. But former commission staffers said yesterday that they had no recollection of ever having

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Memo Cites Informant On Oswald-Cuban Link

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received such a memo or having been told by Hoover or other FBI officials of the information in it.

Officials of the Justice Department and the FBI refused any comment on the memo's existence or its contents, and other sources familiar with the assassination investigation said they had no knowledge of whether it actually was sent to the Warren Commission.

Those sources who told The Washington Post about the document said its existence apparently had been unknown until recently. It was discovered, the sources said, as the result of information that came to the attention of the Justice Department and that prompted Attorney General Edward H. Levi to order a search of FBI files.

After the memo was found, the sources added, Levi put a tight clamp of secrecy on the matter, and only a small number of persons in the Justice Department and FBI know about the document's existence.

As a result, the sources said, they are unable to answer such questions as why the memo apparently never reached the Warren Commission, whether the information was accurate and, if so, whether Castro was informed about Oswald's intentions before or after Kennedy was killed.

Documents released recently by the CIA under the Freedom of Information Act establish that Oswald visited Mexico City less than two months before the assassination and met there with officials of the Cuban embassy.

One of these CIA documents, dated May 3, 1964, states that prior to October, 1963, Oswald visited the Cuban embassy on two or three occasions and was in contact with three alleged Cuban intelligence agents identified as Luisa Calderon, Manuel Vegas Perez and Rogelio Rodriguez Lopez.

He also is known to have talked with an embassy official named Silvia Duran. She reportedly has said that she dealt with Oswald only about his unsuccessful attempts to obtain a visa to visit Cuba.

The sources were unable to identify the informant described in the Hoover memo as having obtained the information from Castro. Some of the sources

said though that they believed "as an educated guess" that it was Rolando Cubela, a high Cuban official and Castro intimate whom the CIA recruited in 1961 and who later figured in CIA plans to kill Castro.

In the Senate intelligence committee investigation last year it was disclosed that the CIA employed a highly placed Castro government official with the cryptonym AMLASH in efforts to assassinate the Cuban leader. Cubela and AMLASH were publicly reported to have been the same man.

The sources also were unable to say how Hoover came into possession of information from an informant inside Cuba, since foreign intelligence is a CIA rather than an FBI function. Some said they thought the information had first been given to the CIA, which then turned it over to Hoover.

However, John McCone, who was CIA director at the time, said in a telephone interview yesterday that the information reportedly in the Hoover memo was "unknown to me."

"It's the first I've ever heard of it," McCone said. "It's hard for me to believe that such a memorandum existed without it being known to me and to the staff of the Warren Commission."

The same point was made by David W. Belin, who served as one of the Warren Commission's legal counsels. He said, in a telephone interview, "I have absolutely no recollection of such a memo. If such a document did exist, I'm sure that we never saw it."

Other documents that have been made public recently indicate that Hoover and top FBI officials knew—while the bureau was investigating the Kennedy assassination—that the CIA was exploring the possibility of having Castro killed. However, Hoover never informed the Warren Commission of the CIA's plotting against Castro.