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Wald-Russ Talk



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He Wanted to Make Dealing in September, 1963, Call

BY RONALD KESSLER

WASHINGTON—In late September, 1963, eight weeks before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald telephoned the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City and tried to make a deal.

In exchange for unspecified information, he wanted a free trip to Rus-

The conversation was intercepted and recorded by the CIA at the time, But it was not then turned over to the FBI, which has responsibility for investigating possible spies, and it was not later turned over to the Warren Commission during its investigation of the assassination.

The existence of the CIA's interception of Oswald's telephone conversation in Mexico City and the contents of the still-secret transcript have been verified by the Washington Post. The Post has also verified that the CIA did not turn over the complete transcript to either the FBI or the Warren Commission.

Instead, the CIA gave the FBI only a brief report in October, 1963, saying Oswald had made contact with the Russians. It gave the Warren Commission a transcript of the taped conversation but for unexplained reasons did not include in the transcript Oswald's offer of information and his suggestion that the Russians would want to pay his way to the Soviet Union.

The Post has also determined that the CIA, for unexplained reasons, told the Warren Commission that it learned of most of Oswald's activities in Mexico City only after the assas-blatlon. But the CIA monitored and tape-recorded his conversations with both the Russian and Cuban embassies in Mexico City in the fall of 1963, before Kennedy's death.

It was the CIA's belief that the two embassies were heavily involved in spying and that they were operational bases for intelligence activities directed at the United States.

So, with the full cooperation of the Mexican government, CIA wiretaps were installed on telephone lines going into both embassies.

The CIA was especially interested in U.S. citizens who made contact with the embassies.

Thus, when Oswald showed us in Mexico City in late September and telephoned the Russian embassy, his conversation was picked up from the wiretap. A transcript was made and circulated in the CIA offices in the American Embassy in Mexico City.

The station chief at that time was Please Turn to Page 10, Cal. I

New Tremors. Rain and Snow Plague Turkey.

From Times Wire Services

MURADIVE, Turkey—Fresh tremors Thursday shook eastern Turkey, while rescue teams fought rate, mow and subsero temperatures to find survivors of a major earthquake that wined out entire villages and claimed 3,000 to 4,000 lives.

There was no indication that the latest tremors, reported by the Turksish Meteorological Office, had added to the devastation of Wednesday