

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hoover memo ignored?

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WASHINGTON — The Warren Commission apparently received — but may have considered unimportant — a recently revealed memo by J. Edgar Hoover indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald discussed his plans to kill President John F. Kennedy with Cuban officials in advance, a spokesman for the Senate Intelligence Committee said Tuesday.

The spokesman said the memo, written on June 17, 1964, and addressed to Warren Commission chief counsel J. Lee Rankin, has been located in the classified section of the commission's files in the National Archives.

Discovery by the Justice Department of a copy of the memo in FBI files touched off a brief furor Saturday. The Washington Post, which first published accounts of the memo, said Warren Commission staff members could not recall having seen it, leading to speculation that it might have been withheld.

Critics of the commission's investigation of the Kennedy killing have charged recently that the FBI intentionally kept important information away from the panel headed by former Chief Justice Earl Warren. The commission concluded that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

The full text of the memo has not been made public. But the spokesman for the Senate committee said it was similar in content to a 1967 interview in which Cuban Premier Fidel Castro told a British journalist he had heard of Oswald's threat to kill Kennedy but "I never believed the plan would be put into effect."

Assassination

Other sources said Hoover related that an FBI informant had discovered that Oswald discussed assassination plans when he visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City about six weeks before Kennedy was killed. It was understood the memo indicated the Cuban Embassy staff did not believe Oswald and considered him a harmless crank until after the slaying.

The Warren Commission did not mention the memo in its report.

The Senate committee, headed by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, has assigned a staff task force to investigate questions about the relationships of the FBI and the CIA to the Warren Commission.

There was no explanation of why the FBI and the Justice Department permitted the story to stand for four days without trying to explain that the memo reached the Warren Commission and that it indicated the Cubans placed little credence in Oswald's threats.

A special House committee, created to See MEMO on Page 28

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"The Dallas Times Herald"
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investigate the assassinations of Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, indicated an interest in the Hoover memo as well as other documents that might point to unexplored leads. But a spokesman said the committee became less interested in the letter after learning that it had been furnished to the Warren Commission.

At a meeting Tuesday, the House panel was told by staff lawyer Robert Ozer that documents relating to the

King murder may have been destroyed after the committee was established in September.

Neither Ozer nor chief counsel Richard A. Sprague would describe the documents in detail but Sprague said the papers "would have been in the possession of law enforcement authorities."

Following the meeting, however, Sprague said the committee had been unable to verify the information it had received about the destruction of documents.