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Warren Commission Not Told

FBI Reportedly Withheld Wiretap on Oswald's Wife

By John M. Crewdson

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (NYT). —The FBI tapped the telephones and bugged the living quarters used by Marina Oswald after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy but it failed to report either the fact of the surveillance or its results to investigators for the Warren Commission, according to a former FBI official.

The official, who was closely involved with the investigation conducted by the bureau in the wake of the assassination, said that the electronic surveillance was instituted on the Russian-born Mrs. Oswald shortly after her husband, Lee Harvey Oswald, was identified as the principal suspect in Kennedy's murder.

The surveillance, the former official said, continued for "some months" after the death of Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, and the killing of Oswald himself two days later by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator.

But the former official said that, to the best of his recollection, the surveillance never produced any information that apparently bore directly on Oswald's motives or that supported the suspicions held by some FBI officials that he had been involved in a conspiracy against the president's life. It was those suspicions, the former official said, that prompted the bureau to initiate its electronic "coverage" of Mrs. Oswald.

Written Approval

The FBI said in a statement yesterday afternoon that the agency had "conducted an electronic surveillance of Marina Oswald's residence from Feb. 29, 1964, to March 12, 1964, based upon written approval of the attorney general of the United States."

The FBI did not deal with its reported failure to inform the Warren Commission of the eavesdropping.

None of the volumes of testimony or evidence published by the commission contained any hint that commission lawyers were told by the FBI of its surveillance of Mrs. Oswald, which the former official said took place in an around the Dallas area where she and her husband lived.

The former official's assertion was supported by key commission counsel and investigators, who said in telephone interviews that they could not remember having been told that Mrs. Oswald's conversations had been monitored.

The commission's report was initially heralded and subsequently defended by most of those who prepared it as a definitive assessment of all of the evidence then in the hands of federal agencies and others that related in any conceivable way to Kennedy's death.

David Bellin, a lawyer who served as an assistant counsel to the commission, said that if the former official's account was accurate, "it strikes me as hor-

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INTERNATIONAL HERALD
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PAGE 3

Handwritten signatures and initials:
C. J. ...
J. ...
W. ...
rm 5098

Date: 10/31/75
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
Character: MISC
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: LONDON
 Being Investigated

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able" that the commission was left uninformed.

His sentiments were shared by Albert Jenner Jr., also a former assistant commission counsel, who said that whether the surveillance of Mrs. Oswald had come out "positive or negative," the panel should have been allowed to weigh whatever information was gleaned.

The former FBI official's account of the withholding of the wiretap and bugging data on Mrs. Oswald, however, is but the most recent indication that the evidence made available to the commission was less than complete.

Last week, for example, the FBI acknowledged that one of



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Mrs. Marina Oswald in a 1964 photograph.

its agents had destroyed, within hours of Oswald's death, an allegedly threatening letter he had received from Oswald less than a month before Kennedy was shot.