

FBI agent tells of Oswald inquiry

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By EARL GOLZ

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The FBI agent who monitored Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Dallas said Tuesday the Senate Intelligence Committee questioned him at length in 1975 about a report that Oswald secretly had been reporting to the FBI about a group planning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The agent, James P. Hosty Jr., said the Senate Intelligence Committee "checked out the whole story and found it to be fictitious."

The House Assassinations Committee also tried — unsuccessfully — to determine whether the story was true when its investigation was under the direction of Richard A. Sprague, the committee's first counsel who was forced to resign in June 1977.

Sprague's aides talked to a former FBI agent in Seattle, Wash., who supposedly was the original source of the

information, but the agent contended he never told the story to anyone, a former investigator for the committee said.

The committee is scheduled to conduct public hearings Wednesday on the

Fidel Castro says Lee Harvey Oswald may have been a U.S. agent who tried to implicate Cuba in Kennedy's assassination, Page 10A.

FBI's role in the assassination investigation. Hosty is not scheduled to appear before the committee.

Hosty told The News two weeks ago the committee fears he will "drop bombs" if called to testify publicly.

The story that the private assassinations researcher, James Gochenaur, reportedly related to the Senate Intelligence Committee in a signed affidavit in 1975 was that Oswald was reporting about every two weeks to Hosty, and

possibly other FBI agents, in the months before the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

Gochenaur said the former agent from Seattle told him Oswald "had been giving him (Hosty) periodic reports on his infiltration of a group that was planning to assassinate the president," the former committee investigator said. The reports involved "information about a group that had been meeting in Mexico City, including names of people."

Hosty reportedly visited the Irving home where Oswald's wife, Marina, was staying on Nov. 1, 1963, because "Oswald had missed his regular report and he (Hosty) went out to find out what the hell happened to him," the investigator said.

Oswald, at the time, was living under a fictitious name in a rooming house in Oak Cliff, and had just started his new job two weeks earlier in the

Texas School Book Depository Building from which, the Warren Commission concluded, he shot Kennedy.

When Oswald was taken into custody after the assassination, authorities found Hosty's name and telephone number — along with his auto license plate number — in Oswald's personal notebook.

Hosty, contacted Tuesday night, at first said he couldn't "comment at this time" about the Oswald informant story, but then asked a reporter to call him back at his Kansas City home in about 10 minutes because "I want to check with somebody."

On the second call, he referred the reporter to Homer Boynton of Washington, D.C., FBI inspector in charge of public affairs.

"We (the FBI) can't comment on anything that the committee is reviewing or investigating," Boynton said.