

F.B.I. Says Oswald Threatened Agent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (AP)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation disclosed tonight that Lee Harvey Oswald had delivered a note threatening one of its Dallas agents days before the assassination of President Kennedy, that the visit had not been previously reported and that the note had been destroyed.

"F.B.I. inquiries to date establish that the note contained no reference to President Kennedy or in any way would have forewarned of the subsequent assassination," the F.B.I. Director, Clarence M. Kelley, said in a statement. But he said that the bureau was investigating the incident.

The F.B.I. said it learned of the Oswald visit as a result of information provided by the Dallas Times Herald.

Mr. Kelley said the note delivered to the F.B.I. office in Dallas by Oswald was a warning to an agent who had visited Oswald's wife, Marina, as part of an investigation. It warned the agent to desist from further interviews of Mrs. Oswald, Mr. Kelley said.

Oswald has been identified in the Warren Commission report as the sole assassin of President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

In a copyright story by its publisher, Tom Johnson, in its Sunday editions, the Times Herald said that Oswald had not been placed under surveillance after his visit to the F.B.I. office. The F.B.I. visit to the Oswald home was described in the Warren Commission report as a routine check of persons who had lived in the Communist bloc. Oswald and his wife lived in the Soviet Union in the early nineteen-sixties.

The Times Herald article said

that the agent in charge of the Dallas F.B.I. office at the time was J. Gordon Shanklin. He was quoted as saying he never knew of the Oswald letter.

The newspaper said that Mr. Shanklin identified the agent who had visited Mrs. Oswald as James P. Hosty Jr., now an agent in Kansas City.

"I'm not in a position to say anything on that," Mr. Hosty was quoted as telling The Times Herald. "I think I'm right so I'll just go along and take orders."

'Inquiries Are Continuing'

The newspaper quoted a source as saying, "I don't believe that J. Edgar Hoover or Mr. Shanklin ever knew of the existence of the letter. They would have gone through the roof."

Mr. Kelley's statement said that inquiries by the bureau tended to corroborate indications that the Oswald letter had been destroyed shortly after the Kennedy assassination.

"Inquiries are continuing to determine the full facts concerning the handling of this matter," the statement said.

The Times Herald said that Mr. Kelley's investigation was aimed at the Oswald visit and possible criminal violations in connection with the destruction of the note and failure to report the incident. An F.B.I. spokesman in Washington refused to characterize the investigation as criminal.

Mr. Kelley said that Attorney General Edward H. Levi had been informed of the progress of the F. B. I. inquiries from their inception.

Details of the Oswald note were not clear, according to the

F.B.I. "Although recollections vary as to the wording of the note, it was for the purpose of warning the agent to desist from further interviews of his wife," Mr. Kelley said.

The Times Herald said that Mrs. Oswald had been reached by the F.B.I. on Nov. 1, 21 days before the assassination. Another attempt was made on Nov. 5, but was not successful, the story said.

In the first visit, The Times Herald quoted a source as saying, "Marina became frightened during the interview and Lee was not there at the time and the agent left, apparently because of her inability to understand English well."

"Prior to the current F.B.I. inquiries," said Mr. Kelley, "there had been no information concerning this visit and not recorded in F.B.I. records and inquiries tend to corroborate that shortly after the assassination the note in question was destroyed."

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