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Tells of FBI Warning on JFK Plot

By PAUL MESKIL

At 1:45 a.m. on Nov. 17, 1963, FBI headquarters in Washington sent an urgent teletype message to its regional offices in Mobile, New Orleans and Dallas. The message said that "a militant revolutionary group" was plotting to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22 or 23.

Marita Lorenz, former undercover agent for the CIA and FBI, said yesterday that she believes that this message, which the FBI never explained, referred to Operation 40, a secret guerrilla group of anti-Castro Cubans and their American advisers.

Ms. Lorenz claims that, as a member of the group, she accompanied Lee Harvey Oswald and an "assassin squad" on a trip from Miami to Dallas the week Kennedy was shot.

Although she could not recall the exact date when they left Miami, she said she flew back to Miami alone "two days before the assassination" after spending only one night in Dallas. According to this timetable, the group, which she said consisted of Oswald, CIA contract agent Frank Sturgis, four Cubans and herself, arrived in Dallas on Nov. 19 and probably left Miami on Nov. 17 or 18.

William S. Walter, now a bank executive in Morgan City, La., was the FBI code clerk on duty in the New Orleans office when the urgent message from Washington arrived on Nov. 17. He retained a copy, which he read to The News yesterday: "Urgent," the message began, "threat to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas November twenty-two dash twenty-three.

Told to Contact Informants

"Information has been received by the bureau that a militant revolutionary group may attempt to assassinate President Kennedy on his proposed trip to Dallas, Texas, November twenty-two dash twenty-three: All receiving officers should immediately contact all CIS (criminal informants) PCIS (potential criminal informants), logical racial and hate group informants and determine if any basis for threat. Bureau should be kept advised of all developments by teletype."

The FBI apparently failed to pass this information on to the Secret Service, the agency responsible for the President's safety. And it did not mention the teletype message to the Warren Commission, which investigated Kennedy's murder. The bureau now claims it has no record of any such message, though it does not deny the message was sent. Walter first disclosed the message in 1968, at a meeting with the U.S. attorney in New Orleans and two assistant prosecutors.

Sturgis has denied ever meeting Oswald or taking part in any plot to kill Kennedy. But he has admitted that he recruited Ms. Lorenz to spy for the CIA while she was living with Fidel Castro in 1959. He also has admitted that he arranged her escape from Cuba and sent her back to Havana in 1960 to kill Castro.

Denied Miami Trip

While working with Operation 40 in Florida, she met deposed Venezuelan dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez and became his paramour. She then dropped out of the guerrilla group and bore a daughter by Perez. When the ex-dictator was deported in August 1963, leaving her penniless with his baby, she returned to the anti-Castro group "because they were the only people I knew in Florida."

Ms. Lorenz and her teenage daughter, Monica, are now living here on welfare. She has asked the welfare department to try to get some support funds from multimillionaire Jiminez, now living grandly in Spain.

Marita Lorenz
Part of Operation 40