

Says FBI purged files of Oswald-spy parley

Dallas (Combined Dispatches)—FBI files on a meeting between Lee Harvey Oswald and a top Soviet spy were purged a few hours after President John Kennedy was assassinated, a former FBI agent said yesterday.

In a copyright interview with the Dallas Morning News, retired FBI agent James P. Hosty Jr. said that without the information, investigators were unable to properly consider the possibility that Oswald acted as part of a conspiracy in the assassination.

Hosty said that he was disclosing the action "because one of these days they are going to have to face up and tell the public the truth."

He said he had been prepared to reveal Oswald's meeting in Mexico City two months before the assassination with Valeriy V. Kostikov if the House Assassinations Committee had permitted him to testify in 1978.

Testimony before that committee identified Kostikov as director of the KGB in the Caribbean—perhaps the highest ranking Soviet spy in the Western Hemisphere.

Hosty said he did not learn of Kostikov's espionage role until three years after Kennedy's 1963 death. But he said pre-assassination information from the FBI in Washington and other government sources was enough to alert him.

The first indication Hosty had of Oswald's visit to the Soviet embassy in Mexico came through eavesdropping on another federal agency in Dallas.

He said he sent an urgent message to FBI headquarters a month before the assassination reporting that the Immigration and Naturalization Service had received a classified communication from the CIA in Mexico City

indicating that Oswald was at the Soviet embassy.

"The big thing was, they didn't tell me anything," Hosty said. "You can very well see how the whole thing could take on a different complexion if I knew who he was talking to. FBI headquarters had it and they sat on it."

Hosty said his FBI superior became enraged when Hosty indicated he was aware of the secret Mexico City data on Oswald.

G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel for the now-defunct House Assassinations Committee, contacted by the Morning News, said Hosty had "no new information to offer this committee."

But Blakey said he could not "deny or confirm" Hosty's story "because I am simply not free to do so."

The House committee published a secret 300-page report entitled "Lee Harvey Oswald, the CIA and Mexico City," the newspaper reported, but its contents were classified.

Tornado whips Tex. shops

Brownwood, Tex. (AP)—A rare December tornado swept the roofs from several stores in a shopping center in Brownwood early yesterday. No injuries were reported, but electricity went out in some parts of the central Texas community of 22,000, authorities said.

N.Y.
Daily News, Tuesday, December 9, 1980