

Ex-agent: FBI purged

United Press International

DALLAS — FBI files on a meeting between Lee Harvey Oswald and a top Soviet spy were purged a few hours after President John F. 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 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 tell of Oswald's Mexico City meeting with Valery V. Kostikov two months before the assassination 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 death on Nov. 22, 1963. But he said pre-assassina-

tion 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 the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service had received a classified communication from the CIA in Mexico City indicating Oswald was at the

data on Oswald-KGB talk

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.

During a 1964 meeting with a Warren Commission lawyer and FBI agent Alan H. Belmont, in charge of

the assassination investigation, Hosty said he specifically mentioned a document that noted Oswald had met with Kostikov.

Hosty said Belmont muttered under his breath: "Damn it, I told them not to let you see that."

"That's when I got suspicious," Hosty said. "They (the FBI) were going to keep me completely out of any knowledge about Mexico City (before my Warren Commission testimony). They were upset that I even knew about it. They were trying to freeze me out completely."

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 confirm or deny 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.