

D.A. Denies Plot Tip ⁵⁻¹ Doubts ^{11/15/68}

ITHACA, N. Y. (AP)—Elliott Golden, acting Kings County district attorney, denied today reports that he has confirmed the identity of a so-called mystery witness or questioned the credibility of an informant in the alleged plot to assassinate president-elect Richard M. Nixon.

Golden, who said he was "greatly disturbed and distressed at certain newspaper reports," said he had made no such statements, "nor did I confirm any such identity."

GOLDEN WAS quoted today by the New York Times as saying "there is already some reasonable doubt about the informant developing."

Both the Times and the New York Daily News identified the informant as Mohammed Hazan Algamal, 36, a native of Yemen.

Another Yemini and his two sons were arrested Saturday in New York City after an informant allegedly called police with a story of a plot to assassinate Nixon.

THE TRIO, Ahmed Rageh Nather, 43, and his sons, Husen 20, and Abdo 18, were indicted Wednesday by a Kings County grand jury on charges of first-degree criminal conspiracy and possession of weapons and dangerous instruments and appliances.

Two rifles and two switchblade knives reportedly were found in their Brooklyn home.

Golden told reporters here that "understandably, much public attention has been di-

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rected toward the arrest of these defendants."

Golden was in Ithaca to attend a meeting.

"I AM CATEGORICALLY denying that I confirmed the identity of the so-called witness and I am categorically denying that I stated that there are reasonable doubts as to the veracity of any witness. These are factors which I refused to comment upon," he said.

He called it a "grave matter of serious concern with possible deep implications" and said many factors must be considered.

Golden said he replied to theoretical questions as to what actions he would take in future instances in the case. He said he probably would ask bail be substantially reduced if reasonable doubt arose and probably would move to dismiss the indictment if evidence established innocence.

"HOWEVER, these replies given merely to hypothetical questions and were not intended to be, nor should they be, taken as a statement of my opinion as to the present posture of this case."

He said "statements apparently taken out of context have brought about this misunderstanding," which he said "serves to illustrate the need to restrict all future comments."