

Letter Discloses That Berrigan Informer

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HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 29—

The defense revealed today that Boyd F. Douglas Jr., an informer for the F.B.I., expected the United States to pay him \$50,000 tax-free for exposing the alleged bombing and kidnapping conspiracy by priests and nuns.

Douglas, 31 years old, a former convict, said in a letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "This figure may sound a little high, but considering everything, I feel it is worth it to the Government and it will make a life for me."

The letter was filed as part of a defense motion today at the trial of the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and six other anti-war militants. It was signed "Pete a nickname for Douglas used by the defendants.

The Government charges that the defendants conspired to blow up heating tunnels to Government buildings in Washington on Washington's Birthday, 1971, and to kidnap the Presidential aide Henry A. Kissinger the next day. The group is also charged with plotting raids on draft boards in other Eastern cities.

Motion Filed

The Douglas letter, dated Oct. 3, 1970, also asked that the Government provide a fake honorable discharge from the Army so as to make it appear that Douglas had just returned from Asia. He needed the document, he said, as part of his cover in starting a new life in the West.

The Government handed the letter over to defense attorneys last night. The defense was entitled to such material, Government attorneys conceded, and although the prosecution was not obliged to show it to the defense until the end of direct examination of Douglas, the

letter was made available at the request of Federal District Judge R. Dixon Herman.

This morning the defense moved to halt further direct testimony by Douglas until the Government revealed all payments made to the informer, including a "reward" that the letter mentioned as having been received. The letter was attached to this motion.

The motion was summarily denied by Judge Herman. At a news conference, one of the defendants, Eqbal Ahmad, a Pakistani scholar, said the letter indicated that the trial was a "frame-up."

Meanwhile the defense obtained a subpoena for F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover, whose discussion of the alleged conspiracy before a Senate subcommittee in November, 1970, ended Douglas's usefulness as a courier of messages between Father Berrigan—who was then serving a sentence in the Lewisburg, Pa., Federal prison for draft board raids—and his followers outside.

A Government motion to quash the subpoena will be argued tomorrow. The defense attorneys said they were chiefly interested in obtaining from Mr. Hoover the complete F.B.I. files on Douglas, including all medical, psychological and psychiatric records.

The letter to the F.B.I. began with the salutation "Molly" (apparently an F.B.I. contact) and said in part:

"Considering what I will go through before and after the trial or trials, I request a minimum reward of \$50,000 (Tax Free). Five thousand to be paid me the first week in December, 1970, and the rest at the start of trial or when things are blown wide open. With this I can start a small business or continue at college.

"I will do all I can to help the government obtain enough evidence to prosecute these people concerned. However, I

don't want to feel that I am just being used. I know these people may not bother me, but the only way I will be able to feel comfortable is to take some precautions as they are the cream of the Catholic Left. This figure doesn't account for expenses between now and the time for trial."

Sought \$50,000 From U.S.

Douglas testified today that one of the defendants, the Rev. Joseph Wenderoth of Baltimore, told him in June, 1970, that dynamite was available to blow up heating tunnels to Government buildings in Washington.

Douglas said he posed as a demolitions expert and advised

Father Wenderoth that dynamite was "too powerful." He testified that the priest estimated that 15 persons, all previously involved in civil disobedience, would be needed to blow up the tunnels, and that one of the group would be an elevator operator in the Capitol.