

F.B.I. Informer Insists Moslem Plotted Kidnapping of Kissinger

By HOMER BIGART

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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 15 — Boyd F. Douglas Jr., a paid F.B.I. informer, insisted today at the Berrigan antiwar conspiracy trial that, although he never met Dr. Eqbal Ahmad prior to Dr. Ahmad's indictment as one of the seven defendants, he positively identified him on the basis of two telephone calls.

Douglas is being questioned by Leonard Boudin, a defense attorney, who was trying to establish that Dr. Ahmad's connection with an alleged plot to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security affairs, was fabricated by the informer.

Dr. Ahmad, a Pakistani Moslem and a fellow at the Adlai E. Stevenson Institute in Chicago, is the only non-Catholic among the alleged conspirators, led by the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan. Dr. Ahmad's alleged involvement in the plot was first cited in a letter to Father Berrigan by a New York nun, Sister Elizabeth McAlister, who said Dr. Ahmad broached the idea of kidnapping "someone like Henry Kissinger" to shorten the Vietnam war.

After reading this letter and giving a copy of it to Federal Bureau of Investigation, Douglas made several efforts to bring Dr. Ahmad to Lewisburg, Pa., where he and Father Berrigan were prisoners in the Federal penitentiary, Mr. Boudin said. The attorney contended that Douglas's sole motivation was to entrap Dr. Ahmad and inform on him to the F.B.I.

Douglas testified that the two calls from Dr. Ahmad were received at a public telephone in a laundromat near Bucknell University, where he was allowed to attend classes under the prison's study-release program.

The first call, he said, was arranged by Sister Elizabeth, who told him in a telephone call from New York that "Eq" or "Eqbal" wanted to discuss the contents of a "very hot letter" concerning the kidnapping. Douglas was to return to the laundromat telephone two hours later, on Aug. 20, 1970, and await the call.

"What did 'Eq' say?" Mr. Boudin asked.

"He said he would like to come down to Lewisburg in September and discuss it [the kidnapping] with me," Douglas replied. He said he would like to get Phil Berrigan's reactions and that he would plan the kidnapping around Christmas time." (Douglas was due for release from the prison in mid-December.)

"Were you not surprised that a man you had never seen would want to discuss a kidnapping with you?" asked Mr. Boudin.

"No I was not surprised," the 31-year-old informer replied. "There's always a first time."

"Eqbal" never came to Lewisburg, Douglas said, and, although he pressed Sister Elizabeth for information on



Associated Press

Judge R. Dixon Herman

"Eqbal's" plans, he never found out why the purported visit was abandoned.

In the closing moments of a cross-examination that lasted seven days, Douglas heard Mr. Boudin read to the jury a 1967 parole report in which the F.B.I. noted that Douglas had made "a poor social adjustment" from a previous conviction and betrayed "many of the attributes of a confidence man."

Douglas seemed surprised when shown that, among the more than \$9,000 he had received from the F.B.I. was a \$200 reward for information leading to the arrest of Father Berrigan's elder brother, the Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan, on Block Island, R. I., two years ago.