

De Gaulle Death Threat At JFK Rites Told

NEW YORK—(UPI)—An "elaborate plot" to murder Charles de Gaulle after he attended President Kennedy's funeral was uncovered by the CIA, but the French president dismissed it with a "pfft."

The 1963 incident is revealed in the book version of William Manchester's "The Death of a President."

FINAL APPEAL

He says the CIA got an "absolutely reliable" report from agents in Geneva "who had positively verified an elaborate plot to murder General de Gaulle on the stretch of pavement outside the Cathedral (St. Matthews) in Washington where De Gaulle was attending Kennedy's funeral."

De Gaulle was urged not to walk behind the casket with other heads of state but to take a limousine out of "courtesy to Mrs. Kennedy."

The French President replied that his "courtesy to Mrs. Kennedy would be to show disregard for his life," and he walked. FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover made a final appeal to De Gaulle, whose reply was "pfft."

When the story of the Kennedy assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald's stay in Russia became known to the experts, the suspicion of a Communist plot deepened and the State Department's principal officers began "a spirited discussion over the possibility of war."

Soviet expert Thomas B. Thompson argued that the Russians might kill defectors but did not assassinate chiefs of state.

MIKOYAN'S TEARS

Thompson was vindicated by events, and first Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan of Russia became one of the chief mourners at Kennedy's funeral, weeping openly on a number of occasions.

When Mrs. Kennedy told him he and Premier Khrushchev "must carry on my husband's work" for peace, he covered his face with both hands to hide his emotion.

The book backs the "lone killer" — Oswald — and the "two shot" theories of Kennedy's assassination.

It also draws a sympathetic portrait of Johnson and his close relationship with Mrs. Kennedy, whose dignity of character and sense of purpose dominate the book.

Among previously unpublished material in the 710-page book are these disclosures:

- Speaker of the House John W. McCormack, second to Johnson in the line of presidential succession for 14 months, refused Secret Service protection as an "intolerable intrusion into my private life."

- Not one member of Kennedy's cabinet responded with enthusiasm to Johnson and an unidentified member wrote that the new President lacked Kennedy's "sense of the time and the age and the forces."

- Jack Ruby's entry into the Dallas jail basement where he shot Oswald was made possible by a guard's absence of only 10 seconds to hold traffic back from an entrance ramp.

- Ted Kennedy wore his dead brother's striped pants,

hastily altered by a White House aide, to the funeral because a rental agency sent him an incomplete full dress suit.

- Kennedy was buried in a middle-price \$1400 casket because the presidential assistants who selected it were influenced by Jessica Mitford's critical book "The American Way of Death."

- Mrs. Kennedy vetoed the Catholic hierarchy's suggestion of holding the funeral at Washington's Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Cardinal Cushing's idea for a tomb in the middle of Boston Common.

- Former President Eisenhower thought the networks' all-out television and radio coverage of the funeral functions was "upsetting to the American people."



GEN. DE GAULLE
Target of plot?

- President Johnson asked, "What the hell am I doing here?" when secret service agents pushed him in among the Supreme Court justices for protection at the Arlington graveside service.

- Mrs. Kennedy did not send Johnson a letter of congratulation on his 1964 election because "she had said goodbye to all that."