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McCone

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (AP)- Director John A. McCone of the Central Intelligence Agency told the Warren Commission investigating the death of President John F. Kennedy that federal intelligence agencies could improve communications in cases of potential assassins by adopting computers and data processing equipment.

The Washington Evening Star discussed McCone's May 14 testimony in a story today. The testimony has not been released by the White House and may not be for several weeks.

McCone also recommended legislation to reward informers who provide information about potential assassins.

"There is a great deal of improvement of information that might be of importance in a matter of this kind through the use of computers and mechanical means of handling files..." McCone told the Commission. He added:

"I would certainly urge that all departments of government that are involved in this adopt the most modern methods of automatic data processing with respect to the personnel files and other files relating to individuals.

"But I emphasize that a computer will not replace the man, and therefore, we must have at all levels a complete exchange of information and cooperation between agencies where they share this responsibility."

In response to a question, McCone said he thought CIA information exchanges with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service are adequate.

McCone was asked by his predecessor, Allen W. Dulles, a member of the commission, whether he felt the CIA received sufficient information from the State Department at the time of the defection of Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's assassin, and of his later activities in Russia.

"Well, I am not sure we got full information, Mr. Dulles," McCone replied. "The fact is we had very little information in our files."

Deputy CIA director Richard M. Helms also testified. When asked if the CIA was informed step-by-step of Oswald's ~~assassination~~ defection and successful attempt to return to this country, Helms said it was his impression the CIA was not so informed but there was no requirement that the State Department should do so.

McCone was asked if it would have been possible to secure more information about Oswald's activities in Russia. He said it would not have been possible for the CIA "because we do not have resources to gain such information."

The CIA did investigate Oswald's trip to Mexico last year, McCone said, and determined that Oswald contacted the Cuban embassy there in an unsuccessful attempt to obtain transit privileges.

"We could not verify that he was there for any other purpose or that his trip to Mexico was in any way related to his later action in assassinating President Kennedy," McCone told the commission.

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