

Baltimore News-American

Oswald's Plans

SEP 23 1975 Known To CIA

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The Central Intelligence Agency knew Lee Harvey Oswald was plotting to assassinate President John F. Kennedy almost two months before the assassination. The News American has been informed.

But the information, gathered by CIA agents in Mexico City, got pigeonholed in a bureaucratic maze until it was too late to effectively protect the life of Kennedy.

"The director didn't get the information until the morning of the assassination," said a source who was close to CIA operations at that time.

"Apparently, no one took the information seriously or

it was deliberately delayed," the source said.

CIA agents in Mexico City kept constant surveillance on Oswald during his visit there in late September 1963. They bugged his conversations inside the Cuban and Soviet embassies and reportedly had an undercover man in a session in which Oswald and others discussed plans for the assassination.

The clandestine meeting was attended by Oswald, at least one Communist party member from Texas and a woman, among others.

Oswald and another young man planned to kill Kennedy in Atlanta. That was their first choice.

The plan to assassinate
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in Georgia fell apart in 1963 when Defense Secretary Robert McNamara became a last-minute speechmaker for the slain Kennedy canceled Atlanta appearance because of throat ailment.

Otherwise, the tragedy that occurred in Dallas on Nov. 23, 1963, might have happened a month earlier in Atlanta.

Through its bugging efforts and "plants" inside the embassies, the CIA also learned that Oswald became "outraged" by the refusal of embassy officials to grant him an entry visa into Cuba and that a heated verbal exchange occurred inside the Cuban embassy.

CIA agents also had photographs of Oswald at the embassies, some of them taken from a CIA front — a news stand — near the Cuban embassy.

For some unexplained reason, the CIA later released pictures of another man who was not Oswald as those of Oswald.

On a lower echelon, CIA agents apparently notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Oswald had gone to the embassies in Mexico City and that he had passed through Houston on his way to Mexico.

But, according to a source close to the situation, the CIA director didn't get the report from the undercover agent concerning the plot until it was too late — the day of the assassination.