## CIA Linked to Mandela's 1962 Arrest

## Paid Informant Detailed S. African's Whereabouts, Newspaper Says

By George Lardner Jr. and David B. Ottaway Washington Post Staff Writers

A tip from a paid informant of the Central Intelligence Agency led to the 1962 arrest of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported yesterday.

Quoting a retired U.S. "intelligence officer" who was stationed in South Africa at the time, the newspaper said a senior CIA official claimed credit for Mandela's capture within hours of his arrest on

Aug. 5, 1962.

"We have turned Mandela over to the South African security branch," the intelligence officer, who was not named, quoted the CIA official, Paul Eckel, as saying in substance. "We gave them every detail, what he would be wearing, the time of day, just where he would be. They picked him up. It is one of our greatest coups."

Tried on charges of sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the South African government, Mandela, now 71, spent 27 years in prison.

Freed in February, he will come to the United States next week for a 12-day visit scheduled to include a ticker-tape parade in Manhattan, a rally at Yankee Stadium and a speech to a joint session of Congress.

There have been persistent reports in the past of CIA involvement in Mandela's arrest, but yesterday's account was the most detailed.

According to the Journal-Constitution, the unnamed intelligence officer said he discussed the subject with Eckel again after Mandela was sentenced. He said Eckel told him that details about Mandela's whereabouts came from a paid informant who communicated with the CIA through a series of "cutouts," or intermediaries.

Mandela had organized the military wing of the African National Congress, Umkhonto-we-Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), and it had decided in December 1961 to end the ANC's policy of nonviolence and begin armed struggle. He was smuggled out of South Africa in January 1962, but returned secretly that June.

In August, he went to Durban, accompanied by an old friend. On the night of Saturday, Aug. 4, according to one of his biographers, Mandela attended a dinner party in Durban with 12 to 15 longtime assocates in the local branch of the ANC. He was stopped at a police roadblock the next day near Howick Falls in Natal Province, 80 miles inland from Durban.

Gerard Ludi, a retired South African intelligence operative who said he had infiltrated the Communist Party, said yesterday he knew the CIA had a "deep cover" agent in the ANC and Communist Party branches in Durban at the time.

Ludi said the secret informant's case officer was Ludi's longtime friend, Millard Shirley, a high-ranking CIA official in South Africa.

"Millard was very proud of that

operation," Ludi said,

Shirley died several years ago in an auto accident in Swaziland. Eckel, who served in the Office of Strategic Services, predecessor of the CIA, in the closing days of World War II, died in 1986 in the Atlanta area where he had retired. He was posted as first secretary to the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria from 1957 until 1962 and later worked on the staff of the National Security Council.

Ludi, who was in the Soviet Union when Mandela was arrested, said he didn't know whether the CIA had tipped off the South African police. He said "the CIA helped us, but not on any grand scale." He said he doubted the CIA would have been interested in Mandela's daily movements.

According to the Atlanta newspaper, however, the unnamed U.S. intelligence official who is its main source was so concerned about the CIA's role that he reported it after Mandela was arrested to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Henry J. Tasca, then responsible for dealings between the CIA and the State Department's African Affairs Bureau.

The official reportedly told Tasca that Mandela was fundamentally an African nationalist, not a communist. Tasca agreed and consulted "higher authorities." The result, the Journal-Constitution said, was that prior State Department approval was required from then on before dissidents could be turned over to South African authorities.

This never happened again, the unnamed official told the newspaper, although approval was requested for at least three other South Africans.

According to reports in the mid-1980s, the U.S. official who delivered the information about Mandela to authorities in Durban was Donald Rickard, allegedly a CIA officer working as U.S. consul there. Now retired and living in Colorado, he declined to comment then and he declined again yesterday.

Lardner reported on this story from Washington, Ottaway from Johannesburg.