

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

13 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 13 January 1977

The Director was briefing the new Republican Senators on the Hill and the DDCI was in Colorado. Wells chaired the meeting.

Miller and Berend noted that Jack Anderson intends to do a story alleging that CIA has thrown a number of roadblocks in the way of the formation of the House Committee on Assassinations. A brief discussion followed and the question of how to handle this vis-a-vis the press and Sprague will be reviewed with the Director upon his return.

19 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 19 January 1977

Waller called attention to the article in today's Washington Post by Jack Anderson, "Mystery Witness in JFK Inquiry" (attached), and observed that anyone who has read the Warren Commission Report would brand the article as rubbish.

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Mystery Witness in JFK Inquiry

A mystery witness has sworn to congressional investigators that a Central Intelligence Agency agent introduced him to Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas three months before Oswald gunned down President John F. Kennedy.

The witness, whom we have agreed to identify only as Mr. X because of attempts of his life, is the founder of a Cuban terrorist group that worked closely with the CIA.

The group held secret meetings at 3126 Hollandale in Dallas before the assassination. Not long after Kennedy was shot, a Dallas deputy sheriff was told by an informant that Oswald had been associating with some Cubans at "3128 Harlendale."

Mr. X's dramatic testimony casts new light on the story Sylvia Odio, daughter of a wealthy opponent of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, told to the FBI. Two months before the Kennedy killing, she related, she was visited in her Dallas apartment by three men who identified themselves as friends of her father.

One was introduced to her as "Leon Oswald." When she saw the picture in the newspapers of the man who had shot Kennedy, she fainted from shock. It was the same Oswald, she was certain, who had visited her apartment.

Congressional investigators have now learned that the late J. Edgar Hoover deliberately misled the Warren Commission about Odio's mysterious visitors. She was such a persuasive witness that the commission staff was preparing to investigate her story thoroughly.

Staff members even speculated, according to one internal memo, that the

anti-Castro forces might have recruited Oswald, a known, pro-Castro activist to kill Kennedy.

"The motive on this," states the memo, "would of course be the expectation that after the President was killed, Oswald would be caught or at least his identity ascertained; the law enforcement authorities and the public would then blame the assassination on the Castro government; and the call for a forceful overthrow would be irresistible."

But Hoover abruptly blocked this line of inquiry by notifying the Warren Commission on Sept. 21, 1964, that the FBI had located and identified Odio's callers. He named them as Loran Hall, Lawrence Howard and William Seymour, all anti-Castroites. Hoover even suggested that Odio could have confused the names "Loran Hall" and "Leon Oswald."

Now the congressional investigators have uncovered evidence that all three denied visiting the Odio apartment and that the FBI had obtained their denials before Hoover wrote his letter to the Warren Commission.

The investigators have also obtained the tape of a fascinating conversation, predicting two weeks in advance that Kennedy would be shot "from an office building with a high-powered rifle." The prediction was made by the late Joseph Milteer, a right-wing rabble rouser, who also happened to have close connections with anti-Castro leaders.

The conversation was taped on Nov. 9, 1963, in Miami by an FBI informant named Willie Somerset, who turned the tape over to the FBI the next day. Milteer is heard on the tape describing

how Kennedy would die. Then the rabble rouser added knowingly that Kennedy "knows he is a marked man."

Milteer later admitted to the FBI that he had been in Dallas in June, 1963, but denied having any knowledge of the Kennedy assassination. However, the informant told the FBI that he asked Milteer after the shooting whether he had known about it in advance or had merely been guessing. "I don't do any guessing," replied Milteer.

But the most explosive development is Mr. X's statement that he met Oswald in the company of a CIA agent. Congressional investigators questioned the mystery witness closely on three separate occasions. They finally concluded that "his credibility is strengthened by the details he provides consistent with what he told us before. Significantly, he remains very strong on the Oswald sighting."

The encounter occurred in a downtown Dallas building, where Mr. X had an appointment with his CIA contact. The agent was accompanied by a man whom Mr. X later recognized as Kennedy's killer.

"When he saw it was Oswald that killed Kennedy," the investigators reported in a confidential memo, "he nearly freaked out, but he never said anything."

The investigators tried to pin down Mr. X on how he could be sure that man was Oswald. Mr. X replied, according to the memo, that he had learned "how to retain the characteristics of a person; he had trained himself to do that. And if it wasn't Oswald, it was someone who was exactly like Oswald, his exact double."

9 February 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 9 February 1977

Cary also noted that the Agency has provided the House Select Committee on Assassinations a report on our holdings on the subject.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

11 February 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 11 February 1977

ADCI chaired the meeting.

Cary also noted the current problems of the House Select Committee on Assassinations as mentioned in today's Washington Post, "Rep. Gonzalez Trying to Fire Sprague" (attached).

Rep. Gonzalez Trying to

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Fire Sprague

House Assassinations Committee Chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) yesterday abruptly ordered the dismissal of chief counsel Richard A. Sprague, but Sprague refused to leave and remained holed up in his offices on Capitol Hill.

In a flurry of letters to Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.) and other key members of Congress, Gonzalez angrily accused Sprague of "divisive and deceitful conduct" and said the sputtering investigation could not possibly succeed unless he were fired.

The latest brouhaha in the life of the beleaguered committee was triggered earlier this week when Gonzalez made an effort to economize by calling for at least a temporary cutback in its 73-member staff. The new chairman apparently was rebuffed, first at a meeting with Sprague in Gonzalez' office Tuesday morning and then by other members of the committee at a secret "informal" meeting later in the day.

A Keystone Kops flavor was added to the dispute when Gonzalez ordered Capitol police to make sure Sprague left his offices in the old FBI Identification Building by 5 p.m., and then had those orders countermanded, apparently by Del. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.).

About 30 minutes later, evidently after a rash of phone calls to members scattered about the country for the long holiday recess, Fauntroy handed Sprague a letter of support bearing the names of all members of the 12-member committee except for Gonzalez.

The letter pronounced Gonzalez' action "invalid," said only the committee had such authority, and directed Sprague to disregard Mr. Gonzalez' order terminating your employment and his instructions that you vacate the offices of the select committee by 5 p.m. of this date. The entire committee, apart from the chairman, so directs you.

By then, Gonzalez was already in the air, flying home to San Antonio. Apprised of the committee members' action when he arrived, Gonzalez told United Press International: "They're not the chairman. He

[Sprague] can work for free. He is not going to work under the payroll. I certified to the clerk to remove his name."

The confrontation left the House inquiry into the murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. on shakier ground than ever. Armed by Sprague's ambitious \$6.5 million budget and questionable investigative techniques he had proposed, the House delayed re-establishing the committee until last week and then did so only on a temporary basis, giving the panel until March 31 to settle down and come back for a permanent charter.

In a letter to other committee members, Gonzalez accused Sprague in effect of a rule-or-ruin approach to the investigation and protested that under the present circumstances, "there is no way that this committee can function effectively or carry out its responsibilities to the House."

"I am confident that we can carry on a successful investigation without Mr. Sprague," Gonzalez declared. "I am confident that we cannot do so with him."

"This committee has been led into a series of errors by its counsel; its work has been without organization and direction; its official reports and documents have been of wholly unacceptable quality," the chairman's letter continued. "These are matters that must be remedied if this investigation is to progress."

Sprague had no comment except to state through a spokesman, shortly after 5 p.m., that he was staying on the job because "only the committee has the power" to fire him.

According to several sources, Gonzalez had proposed at a secret committee meeting Monday that some staffers be dismissed temporarily because the committee's present funding is only \$84,000 a month and its payroll amounts to \$123,000 a month. A decision was postponed to Tuesday so that Sprague could be heard. He opposed the move, pointing out that many staffers had already taken a voluntary 35 per cent pay cut.

No vote was taken but it was clear that Sprague had a majority of the committee on his side.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

3 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 3 March 1977

Mr. Knoche was out of the city; Blake chaired the meeting.

According to the article in today's Washington Post (attached) on the future of the House Assassinations Committee, Blake asked about the status of the Committee and Miller opined that unless the Speaker is able to cement something together soon, the Committee may die.

Gonzalez Submits Resignation From JFK-King Panel

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

In an indignant letter to the Speaker of the House, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) submitted his resignation as chairman of the House Assassinations Committee yesterday after an admittedly futile effort to take charge of the inquiry.

He accused House leaders of failing to back him up in his struggle with the committee's chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague, and said that he saw no alternative to quitting "under the circumstances that now exist."

Accusing Sprague once again of mismanagement, insubordination and disloyalty, Gonzalez denounced him as "an unscrupulous individual, an unconscionable scoundrel." Sprague, who has thus far had the backing of the rest of the 12-member committee, had no comment.

Apparently caught by surprise, House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.) said he doubted the investigation would survive at all unless Gonzalez can be persuaded to change his mind.

The volatile Gonzalez phrased his resignation letter in terms that ostensibly made his departure immediate and final but, under a precedent established just two years ago, it is up to the House to accept or reject it.

Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.) said he would not schedule the issue for floor action until he first had a chance to speak to Gonzalez and try to dissuade him. Gonzalez has been bedridden with flu in his San Antonio home for the past 12 days.

O'Neill refused to speculate on what the House might do if Gonzalez remains adamant, but not a few members seemed agreed that it could well kill the entire investigation into the murders of President Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Already reeling from the impact of earlier disputes over the inquiry's proposed cost and methods, culminating in Gonzalez' attempts to fire Sprague, the 12-member Assassinations Committee will go out of business March 31 unless it can get a new charter, and budget, from the House.

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REP. HENRY B. GONZALEZ
... harsh words for Sprague

effort to take charge of the inquiry.

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"In view of the low repute we have in the minds of other members of the House because of the unseemliness of the whole squabble, that might be hard to get," said Rep. John B. Anderson (R-Ill.), one of the committee's four GOP members. "The life of the committee still hangs by a slim thread."

The Speaker had already suggested, in a television appearance last week, that the committee would go out of business at the end of the month "unless they come up with something sensational," and he reiterated that judgment yesterday. He said some committee members had "told me they have some breakthrough on the King business," but O'Neill said he was not aware of what that might be.

Del. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), who has been heading a subcommittee that would look into the King assassination, hinted of a possible public hearing to "focus on the results of the investigation so far." But he declined to predict any bombshells, and other members said there was none to be produced.

See INQUIRY, A10, Col. 1



REP. HENRY B. GONZALEZ
... harsh words for Sprague

Rep. Gonzalez Resigning Assassination Panel Chair

INQUIRY, From A1

The committee feels there's a good chance to crack the King case, but that's a long run," said Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.), the ranking Democrat under Gonzalez. "But I don't know of any bombshells we're about to drop."

The committee was already prepared to postpone the investigation into President Kennedy's assassination, in anticipation of a much slimmer budget than the \$6.5 million a year Sprague had proposed.

Appointed chairman just last month, Gonzalez said he was quitting, as both chairman and as a member of the committee. He described the inquiry as mired down in "an administrative nightmare," and said he decided to fire Sprague only after finding "unjustifiable salaries, unjustified employees, and reckless, inexplicable financial obligations."

It seemed plain that Gonzalez would insist on Sprague's ouster if he were to be expected to change his mind. Alluding to an effort by a committee majority to secure paychecks for Sprague and the rest of the committee's 73-member staff in Gonzalez' absence, the chairman protested that some of his colleagues "appear to be interested in usurping even my ministerial powers."

"It seems clear now that the House

leadership is unwilling to offer me support," Gonzalez wrote O'Neill. "Yet, I cannot bring myself to sign pay vouchers for an unscrupulous individual, an unconscionable scoundrel, and no power on earth can compel me to do so."

Gonzalez aides said he felt House leaders had expected him to bend too much in keeping Sprague on the committee staff. Majority Leader Wright acknowledged to reporters later in the day that he may have miscalculated on that score, thinking that Gonzalez could be persuaded to accept the prosecutor "in a reduced role."

Asked last month by Speaker O'Neill to mediate the dispute, Wright told reporters he had gotten the approval of eight of the committee's 12 members to a compromise he had proposed this week.

Wright refused to discuss the details, but it was learned later that it was a seven-point suggestion involving Sprague's retention as chief investigator and the hiring of "a new person acceptable to all the members" to replace Sprague as staff administrator. All "final decisions on hiring and firing would repose with the committee membership . . ."

O'Neill said House leaders would meet today with other members of the committee to discuss the dispute.

16 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 16 March 1977

Cary noted that he had responded to Richard Sprague, Counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, for information concerning Santos Trafficante (OLC 77-0977), and went on to advise that if Committee Chairman Stokes requests same, we will be obligated to comply.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

17 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 17 March 1977

The DCI was at his OEOB office, Admiral Murphy was conducting a staff meeting. Mr. Knoche chaired the meeting.

Cary described Richardson Pryor's (of the Kennedy Assassination Subcommittee) acceptance of our position regarding passing information he requested. He agreed with our views and said that the request may have been premature.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

18 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 18 March 1977

The DCI was at his OEGB office. Admiral Murphy was conducting a staff meeting. Mr. Knoche chaired the meeting.

Cary said that the SSCI staff had declined a request from the House Assassinations Committee for access to its files and that the SSCI itself subsequently upheld the staff's position.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

29 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 29 March 1977

Admiral Turner was on the Hill. Mr. Knoche chaired the meeting.

Lapham reported on a letter from the Department of Justice written in response to a move we made six months ago to defer to the FBI to respond to a request from the Dade County Florida sheriff for information related to the Roselli murder. We understood that a Justice ruling prevented our sharing information with Dade County. Without reference to its previous ruling Justice now says it is up to CIA whether or not to share the information. Lapham said he would have to study the documents involved before recommending our next move. Miller noted that we had worked closely with the SSCI in developing our original response.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

30 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 30 March 1977

Admiral Turner chaired the meeting. Mr. Knoche was preparing for budget hearings.

Wells referred to a Spot Report dealing with the suicide of a Palm Beach citizen who was involved with Lee Harvey Oswald. We have a file on him and Wells believed that it was passed to the Warren Commission. He said he cited the case so that Admiral Turner would not be surprised if it were mentioned to him. Hetu said he had a call from a TV newsman in Dallas last week seeking information on this case (see attached clipping).

Figure in JFK Probe Found Dead, a 'Suicide'

From News Services

PALM BEACH, Fla. — A Russian-born petroleum geologist and language professor, described as "intimately involved" with Lee Harvey Oswald and a "crucial witness" in the congressional investigation of the Kennedy assassination, was found dead yesterday in an apparent suicide.

Palm Beach County Sheriff Richard Wille identified the victim as George de Mohrenschildt, 65, a professor of French at Dallas' Bishop College.

Wille said de Mohrenschildt, a guest at the historic oceanfront mansion in suburban Manalapan, Fla., of Mrs. Charles Tilton III, apparently placed the muzzle of a 20 gauge shotgun to his mouth and pulled the trigger.

The sheriff said de Mohrenschildt had vanished from Dallas shortly after a Dutch newspaper report about three weeks ago claimed he had prior knowledge of the assassination.

De Mohrenschildt was traced by a House Assassinations Committee investigator to the Florida address, the sheriff said, and he returned to the Tilton home about 2:45 p.m. yesterday to learn that the investigator, believed to be Gaeton J. Fonzi, had been trying to reach him.

THE DRAMATIC development yesterday, together with sudden support of a continued investigation by Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., may serve to win the committee a new lease on life. Under continuous attack, the assassinations panel will go out of business at midnight tonight unless the full House votes an extension.

Informed late last night of the death, Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., a key member of the committee, said, "He was a crucial witness for us, based on the new information he had. He was intimately involved with Oswald."

When the Warren Commission issued its report in 1964, concluding that President Kennedy was killed by Oswald acting alone, it said it had conducted an extensive investigation into de Mohrenschildt and his wife, Jeanne, because they had known the Oswalds through mutual Russian-speaking friends in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The commission con-



—Associated Press

George de Mohrenschildt, shown with his wife in an earlier photo.

cluded that there was no evidence linking them to the tragic event in Dallas.

In his account quoting de Mohrenschildt as saying he had prior knowledge of the Kennedy assassination, Dutch journalist William Oltmans reported, "He (de Mohrenschildt) asked me 'How do you think the media would react if I came out and said I feel responsible for Oswald's behavior?'"

AFTER VANISHING from Dallas, De Mohrenschildt showed up in Oltmans' office in Holland. Then he disappeared again and was traced by government investigators from Brussels to Florida.

Sheriff Wille said only a maid and the Tilton family chauffeur were at home at the time, and the shooting went undiscovered until the body was found by de Mohrenschildt's daughter in a second floor drawing room. Both had been guests at the Tilton home for about a week.

The sheriff said the call to the home was believed to have been placed from Miami by House investigator Fonzi.

About an hour later, Wille said, de Mohrenschildt apparently shot himself. "We're 99 percent certain he killed himself," the sheriff said.

Wille and Palm Beach State Atty. David Bludworth questioned witnesses about the shooting until shortly before midnight.

Among the witnesses quizzed was free lance writer Ed Epstein, who had told the West Palm Beach Post Monday night that he had been interviewing de Mohrenschildt in connection with a book he was doing about Lee Harvey Oswald.

AFTER HIS questioning last night, Epstein said, "I don't mean to be evasive but the police told me not to talk about de Mohrenschildt's death to anybody."

The Tilton home remained sealed off by sheriff's deputies last night.

According to the Warren Commission report, de Mohrenschildt was born in the Ukraine in 1911 and fled Russia in 1921 following the civil disorders that broke out after the Bolshevik revolution.

He became an American citizen in 1949, having earlier received a graduate degree from the University of Texas in petroleum geology and petroleum engineering.

In 1960, the report states, he traveled for eight months through Mexico and Panama over primitive jungle trails, and by happenstance he and his wife were in Guatemala City when the Bay of Pigs invasion was launched. He prepared a lengthy film clip and a complete written log on the trip and a report was made to the U.S. government, the commission reported.

De Mohrenschildt's death was third involving witnesses or potential witnesses before congressional panels investigating assassinations.

Underworld figure Sam Giancana was murdered before, and John Roselli was killed after, testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee investigating allegations that the assassination of Kennedy was in retaliation for CIA efforts to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

6 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 6 April 1977

Admiral Turner chaired the meeting.

Waller called attention to Jack Anderson's column in today's Washington Post, "Questions Remain in King Probe," and went on to note that the House Committee on Assassinations has, as a matter of practice, elected to leak information that we are apt to be called upon to clarify. Later in the meeting, Miller noted that Chairman Stokes has indicated that he is prepared to receive a briefing from us on procedures for the handling of sensitive material, security clearances, etc., similar to those worked out with the SSCI.

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Questions Remain in King Probe

Nine years ago, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., spiritual leader of the civil rights movement, was gunned down in Memphis. An escaped convict, James Earl Ray, was nailed for the murder.

Yet nagging suspicions persisted that he may have been hired by others. The public doubt finally forced a Justice Department task force to review the case. It has now concluded that Ray "was the assassin and that he acted alone."

House investigators, however, have challenged the Justice Department's findings. In a confidential, 16-page analysis, they have pointed out significant inconsistencies and omissions in the task force report.

They note that the task force had a "multitude of leads" to pursue yet interviewed only 30 people. "Thirty interviews could hardly scratch the surface," declares the analysis. "A detective investigating a common street crime may very likely conduct more interviews."

The House investigators don't pretend that they have solved the case. But they have set forth their clues in a fascinating secret report, stamped "Sensitive." Here are the highlights in chronological order:

- While Ray was serving time in the Missouri state penitentiary, he told inmates that he would kill King "if the price was right." Ray also was quoted as saying he intended to seek out a "businessmen's association" which allegedly had offered \$100,000 for King's murder.

- On April 23, 1967, Ray escaped from the prison by hiding in a large bread box, which was loaded on a bak-

ery truck. The congressional investigators are trying to find out "whether anyone aided Ray in his escape and whether this assistance was connected" to the King assassination.

- The escapee had immediate access to false identities. He posed alternately as Eric Galt, Ramon George Sneyd, Paul Bridgman and John Willard. "These aliases correspond to the names of real men, all of whom lived close to one another in suburban Toronto," report the investigators. "In addition, three out of the four bear physical resemblances to Ray." Galt "even had scars in the same location as did Ray, the forehead and right palm." The House sleuths want to know "whether Ray received any help in obtaining these aliases."

- For the next year, Ray "traveled across the United States, lived in more than a dozen cities and traveled in four foreign countries. . . A conservative estimate of his total expenses would be at least \$7,000. Ray himself estimates that he spent at least \$9,500." Those who did business with him recall that "he often paid for items with new \$20 bills." The House Assassinations Committee "intends to investigate the sources of Ray's funds in general and of those \$20 bills in particular."

- The committee has received unverified reports that Ray was in touch with the Beverly Hills office of Litton Industries in California. While he was posing as Eric Galt, he also listed as his previous employer a Pascagoula, Miss., shipbuilding company owned by Litton Industries. The investigators are checking "whether there is any rela-

tionship between Ray and Litton Industries."

- The late William Sartor, a journalist, alleged that organized crime figures had accepted a \$300,000 contract on King's life from a right-wing racist group. According to Sartor, Ray got in touch with these men in New Orleans. The committee is seeking "all evidentiary material that might support or refute Mr. Sartor's report."

- A witness has told investigators that he overheard a telephone conversation on the afternoon of the King assassination. "Frank Liberto, a person with alleged organized crime connections, said: 'Shoot the bastard. Do it this afternoon. Shoot him, even if you have to do it on the balcony, just do it.'"

- The committee has received "independent corroboration" of a possible Liberto link. A witness told of a Birmingham, Ala., gunshop owner who, before the assassination, pointed to a rifle and said: "This is the gun that is going to kill Martin Luther King." Later the witness saw the gunshop owner "in the company of Ray and Liberto." The secret report describes Liberto as "a target of the committee's investigation."

- Ray fled to Toronto after the assassination. He applied for Canadian birth certificates under the names of Paul Bridgman and Ramon George Sneyd. He finally obtained a birth certificate and passport in Sneyd's name. The House investigators are checking "the procedures used by Ray in securing these documents." They want to know whether he could have obtained them "without the assistance of some presently unidentified person or persons."

CASEY

By Charles Rodriguez

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

8 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 8 April 1977

The Director was at his OEOB office. Mr. Knoche was at the White House. Admiral Murphy was in his office. Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Waller referred to today's Jack Anderson column (attached) observing that the flow of material from the House Assassination Committee appeared to be continuing. He said there was nothing new in the article; it was rehash.

JFK Data Quashed, Memo Says

A confidential House memo accuses the FBI and CIA of "a serious suppression of evidence which was vital to this country's investigation" of the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

A House Assassinations subcommittee "has uncovered a good deal of information which suggests that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with one or both of these organizations," the memo says.

It charges bluntly "that both the CIA and FBI intentionally withheld relevant information from the Warren Commission and in at least one instance, provided the commission with information known to be false."

The memo accuses the FBI of withholding 23 Oswald files from the commission. The FBI "was in possession of 69 pre-assassination files on Lee Harvey Oswald," states the memo. "However, of these files, only 40 were turned over to the commission."

The information that allegedly was withheld was contradictory. On one hand, the CIA suppressed facts suggesting that Cuba's Fidel Castro may have retaliated against President Kennedy after learning about the CIA's plot against his own life. But on the other hand, the CIA allegedly covered up evidence linking Oswald to CIA-sponsored, anti-Castro Cubans.

The House memo draws no conclusion about the Kennedy killing. But it lays out the evidence that the committee has gathered thus far. Here are the highlights:

- The CIA did not disclose to the Warren Commission that it had been trying to knock off Fidel Castro at the time Kennedy was shot. Killers from

the Havana underworld, controlled by mobster Santos Trafficante, were used in the plot against the Cuban premier. The mobster who directed the attempt on Castro's life, John Roselli, hinted privately that the same killers had been caught by Castro and had been turned against Kennedy. Interestingly enough, a Cuban exile, according to the memo, quoted Trafficante as saying "that Kennedy was going to be hit."

- Roselli had also suggested that the mob had ordered Jack Ruby to kill Oswald to prevent any disclosure of the Trafficante connection. One of Ruby's underworld associates, the memo reports, "indicates that in 1959 Jack Ruby traveled to Cuba and visited Santos Trafficante in jail." The same source also reported that "Ruby and Roselli had meetings in Miami several months prior to the assassination."

- A witness had told committee investigators that Ruby introduced her to Oswald at a Dallas nightclub two weeks before the assassination. She "had been afraid to come forth with her information," according to the memo, because another woman disappeared after she mentioned seeing Oswald at Ruby's nightclub. But the long-silent witness "is now willing to testify."

- The Warren Commission met behind closed doors on Jan. 27, 1964, to discuss "evidence" that Oswald had been a \$200-a-month FBI informant up to the time of the assassination. The evidence came from two "independent" and "reliable" sources. The commission's general counsel, J. Lee Rankin, took this up with the late FBI di-

rector J. Edgar Hoover, who categorically denied any relationship between Oswald and the FBI. Reports the memo: "The Warren Commission decided that rather than embarrass J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI they would not pursue the evidence."

- A Dallas woman, named Sylvia Odio, reported that she had been visited by anti-Castro Cubans. They introduced her to an American, whom she later recognized as Oswald. The Cubans told her that the American was trying to persuade anti-Castro groups "to kill President Kennedy because of Kennedy's reaction to the Bay of Pigs invasion." Not long afterward, Kennedy was shot. But the FBI misrepresented the woman's story to the Warren Commission, the memo alleges. This report "of what the bureau knew to be patently false," declares the memo, "requires further investigation."

- The memo cites photographs and stories linking Oswald to members of a paramilitary, anti-Castro unit known as the "No Name Key Group." Some of the photos show "CIA agents assigned to train the Cuban exiles and soldiers of fortune." Some members of the group were traced to Dallas shortly before the Kennedy assassination.

Footnote: FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley has told us that all 69 summaries were provided to the commission. Kelley also said the bureau furnished the commission with all pertinent information about potential informants, including the Cuban Sylvia Odio. The CIA had not commented by the time we went to print.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

22 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 22 April 1977

The Director was in his office working on the Wilson case and other topics. The DDCI was at Warrenton addressing a Finance Officers course. Wells chaired the meeting.

Wells noted the item contained in the National Enquirer (attached) claiming Oswald was on our payroll. In response to his query as to where to turn for a fast file check and rebuttal, Waller noted that Scott Breckinridge, together with officers in the DDO, constitute a task force to deal with the Oswald question and OLC has the liaison

responsibility with the House Assassination Committee. Hetu noted that just prior to last evening's ABC News program, he was called upon to put down this allegation.

EXCLUSIVE NEW EVIDENCE

Oswald Could Not Have Killed JFK

...And Top-Secret Govt. Documents Prove Accused Assassin Had Been on CIA Payroll

New evidence uncovered by The ENQUIRER reveals that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have killed President John F. Kennedy.

At the very moment JFK was shot, Oswald and a friend — George de Mohrenschildt — were standing on a downtown Dallas street watching the motorcade pass, de Mohrenschildt told a hospital roommate last December.

De Mohrenschildt said Oswald ran from the scene and he never saw Oswald again. He also said that Oswald was once offered money by a CIA agent to kill Kennedy — but rejected the offer.

De Mohrenschildt made these disclosures to roommate Clifford Wilson in Dallas — but before the House assassinations committee got a chance to hear them, de Mohrenschildt was found shot to death.

The ENQUIRER has also uncovered another startling aspect of the Kennedy assassination case.

Top secret government documents — kept locked away until only days ago — reveal that Lee Harvey Oswald worked for the CIA.

These documents, now in The ENQUIRER's possession, prove Oswald was on the CIA's payroll three years before JFK's assassination — a fact that top CIA officials have vigorously denied, even under oath.

De Mohrenschildt's death came on March 29 in Manalapan, Fla. A local coroner's inquest ruled it a suicide. Last year de Mohrenschildt, a Dallas geologist, had tried to kill himself four times, and had spent the last weeks of the year in Dallas' Parkland Hospital.

At the hospital, de Mohrenschildt became friendly with Wilson, a manual laborer . . . and over a period of 11 days in December, de Mohrenschildt confided to Wilson that Oswald could not have assassinated JFK.

"He said to me: 'I know damn well Oswald didn't kill Kennedy — because Oswald and I were together at the time,'" Wilson told The ENQUIRER in an exclusive interview.

"De Mohrenschildt said that at the time Kennedy was killed, he and Oswald were both in downtown Dallas. They had come there to see Kennedy, just like the other people.

"He said that when the shots were fired, Oswald ran and he never saw him again. De Mohrenschildt stayed there and watched what was happening."

Added Wilson: "De Mohrenschildt told me he and Oswald had been very good friends for a long time.

He also said Oswald had once been offered money by a CIA agent to kill Kennedy — but that he had turned it down."

Wilson gave the agent's name to The ENQUIRER, but it is being withheld

because he is still active in the CIA.

De Mohrenschildt felt that the agent arranged Oswald's murder because he feared Oswald might talk about the JFK murder contract he'd been offered, Wilson told The ENQUIRER.

Wilson, who shared a room with de Mohrenschildt at Parkland, said de Mohrenschildt was a frightened and deeply troubled man — fearing that he, like Oswald, was going to be murdered.

"He was scared for his life. He said so a couple of times," said Wilson, married and the father of two children.

"He told me: 'Because I was a friend of Oswald, and I know what I just got through telling you, I'm going to wind up dying.'"

De Mohrenschildt said his fear had been triggered by the fact that the CIA had begun harassing him in mid-1976, Wilson said.

"De Mohrenschildt said he was visited at home — and told he was being watched — by the agent who'd offered money to Oswald," recalled the laborer.

"After that, he was bothered by the CIA."

"He said he couldn't go anywhere or do anything without one of them following him.

"He said he couldn't even go home from the hospital for two days without them bugging him, calling him up and threatening him.

"De Mohrenschildt said he and his wife couldn't take a walk without being followed.

"He often told me: 'They'll wind up getting me.' Most of the time he men-

tioned that the agent would wind up getting him."

De Mohrenschildt revealed that just after his last suicide attempt, the agent called him and said: "You almost got the job for us, but it looks like we're gonna have to do it ourselves," Wilson recalled.

"He said that next time they would do it right — that he was going to be killed, and that they would make it look like suicide."

De Mohrenschildt's fears — and his depression — seemed to grow as the days passed.

On one occasion he broke down and cried for days, Wilson said.

Finally, de Mohrenschildt confided to Wilson exactly why the CIA was out to get him.

"He said to me: 'I'll tell you why they're bugging me . . . the Kennedy assassination investigation has been opened again, and they're afraid I'm going to be called back up on the thing — and this time I'll talk.'"

Wilson said de Mohrenschildt was released one day before he himself went home.

Three months later de Mohrenschildt was found dead in an upstairs bedroom at a close friend's home in Manalapan, Fla.

"When I heard over the news that he was shot, it brought tears to my eyes," said Wilson, 17.

"From what he told me, I know damn well it wasn't suicide."

The ENQUIRER taped Wilson's story and took the tapes to Charles R. . .

continue

lecting Psychological Stress Evaluator. After an extensive examination of the tapes, McQuiston reported:

"At no point during the interview did my electronic equipment indicate he was lying.

"My conclusion is that he is being truthful."

Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans, who testified before the House assassinations committee in February, March and April, confirmed that the geologist had been running scared in recent months.

And the newsman, a friend of de Mohrenschildt's since 1968, revealed to **THE ENQUIRER** that de Mohrenschildt admitted he had met Jack Ruby — a fact de Mohrenschildt had denied during testimony before the Warren Commission in 1964.

CIA documents on both de Mohrenschildt and Oswald were obtained through the Freedom of Information Act only last month from CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., by Alan J. Weberman and Robert Sibley — two top investigators who have devoted years to probing the JFK assassination.

These documents reveal there is a "201" file on Oswald.

The very existence of this file — the standard personnel file for paid CIA employees — conclusively shows that he worked for the agency, three CIA veterans confirmed.

"The fact that Oswald had one (a 201 file) is absolutely fantastic!" said former CIA man Bradley E. Ayers, who once trained anti-Castro Cubans.

Ayers said it meant Oswald was "either a contract agent, working for them full time, or he was on some kind of assignment for the CIA."

Former CIA agent Patrick McGarvey was equally astounded when told of Oswald's 201 file.

"You've got a bombshell, man! You've got the one that cracks the egg," McGarvey told **THE ENQUIRER**. "If a guy has a 201 file, that means he's a professional staff employee of the organization."

Victor Marchetti, former executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA, agreed.

"Basically, if Oswald had a 201 file, he was an agent," he said.

In an exclusive **ENQUIRER** interview, investigator Weberman revealed how the CIA had hidden the fact that Oswald worked for the agency:

"The CIA never told the Warren Commission that a 201 file existed on Oswald.

"Instead they claimed their file was a routine file on a suspected Communist agent.

"This file offers conclusive proof that Oswald was not just a 'weak, pathetic loner,' as the Warren Commission concluded — but was in actual fact a CIA operative."

The Commission, in fact, was never told of Oswald's work with the agency. CIA Director John McCone told the pan-

Helms issued similar denials.

Investigators Weberman and Sibley also obtained CIA documents which show that Oswald's friend, George de Mohrenschildt, also had links with the agency.

One document reveals that after a trip behind the Iron Curtain to Yugoslavia in 1957, de Mohrenschildt was extensively debriefed by a CIA agent.

"It seems clear to me that this new evidence on Oswald and de Mohrenschildt proves there's a conspiracy," said investigator Weberman.

"And I'm confident that in the next few months this whole thing will be blown wide open."

Continued

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

3 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 3 May 1977

Mr. Knoche advised that the Director was meeting with analysts prior to his briefing of the President, a practice he plans to continue on a periodic basis.

Miller noted that the staffers of Chairman Flynt's Committee on Ethics will be visiting here for a review of guidelines and procedures. He also noted that Chairman Richardson Preyer of the House Select Committee on Assassinations was briefed on ground rules and found our suggested procedures quite satisfactory.

5 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 5 May 1977

--Representative Devine, a member of the House Assassinations Committee, was briefed and appears to be supportive.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

6 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 6 May 1977

The DCI was on the Hill. Mr. Knoche was out of town. John McMahon was present vice Admiral Murphy. Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Waller referred to today's Jack Anderson column (attached) which claimed that House Assassinations Committee "secret files" reveal some strange CIA activities in Dallas on the eve of President Kennedy's assassination. He said that Cary had called from the Hill saying that the DCI wanted more information. Waller said this was yet another example of what he believes are leaks from the Assassinations Committee members or staff and he predicted more. Waller noted that he was expressing his "gut feeling" and that it was difficult to determine where Anderson got his information because there is FOIA, Warren Commission, and other material in the public domain. White said Anderson's column takes pieces and weaves them into a "non-story." White reported that during Lyle Miller's meeting with Representative Preyer, who will be concentrating on the Kennedy assassination, they discussed leaks. Preyer expressed concern that more exposures might affect the Committee's future, and it would appear that we should get back to him citing the Anderson column.

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Odd CIA Activity in Dallas in 1963

The secret files of the House Assassinations Committee contain reports of strange CIA activities in Dallas on the eve of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

Credible witnesses have confirmed our past reports that the accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was in touch with anti-Castro Cubans in Dallas. One confidential report states that "in 1963, Oswald was seen leaving the Dallas office of Alpha 66." This was a Cuban commando group trained by the CIA.

A Cuban CIA operative, Antonio Veciana, also told investigators that he had been summoned to Dallas in August 1963, by his CIA contact—a mysterious man who went by the name of Morris Bishop. States a confidential summary: "When (Veciana) arrived, Bishop was accompanied by another man, Lee Harvey Oswald."

Another witness who impressed the investigators, Sylvia Odio, told them that two anti-Castro Cubans had introduced her to an American by the name of Leon Oswald. She was told that Oswald was trying "to convince anti-Castro Cuban groups . . . to kill President Kennedy." After the assassination, she recognized this American as Lee Harvey Oswald.

The House investigators don't really believe that the CIA had any part in the murder of President Kennedy. More likely, they suspect the CIA may have tried to cover up some embarrassing contacts with Oswald in Dallas.

In any case, the CIA took pains to give the impression that Oswald was in Mexico City at the time that witnesses claimed he was dealing with the CIA-guided Cubans in Dallas. Veciana, for example, told of a strange call he re-

ceived from his CIA contact after Kennedy was killed.

The CIA man, Morris Bishop, asked Veciana to contact his cousin, Guillermo Ruez, who worked for the Cuban embassy in Mexico City. Relates a confidential report: "Veciana was to relay Bishop's offer to pay Ruez and his wife to say that they had met with Oswald in Mexico City."

This not only would have placed Oswald out of Dallas but would have thrown suspicion on the Castro government. The ruse was later called off. Instead, the CIA cited secret tapes and photographs as evidence that Oswald had been in touch with both the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City.

The CIA kept tapes of all phone calls going in and out of the two embassies. Photographs were also taken of everyone entering and leaving these embassies. On Oct. 1, 1963, the CIA notified other U.S. embassies that "an American male, who identified himself as Lee Oswald, contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City."

Oswald was described in the cable as "approximately 35 years old, with an athletic build, about six feet tall, with a receding hairline." The committee files note that this "in no way physically resembles the Lee Harvey Oswald accused of assassinating President Kennedy."

The CIA sought photographs from the navy to compare with its photographs of Oswald at the Soviet embassy. Declares a committee report: "These photographs, though obviously not of the correct Lee Harvey Oswald, became the Warren Commission's exhibit 237. The CIA admitted that there

had been a mix-up but never cleared the matter up."

A CIA witness has told committee investigators, meanwhile, that the CIA's monitoring camera happened to break down on the day that Oswald allegedly visited the Soviet Embassy. But the CIA tap on the Soviet Embassy's phone produced an alleged telephone call from someone who identified himself as "Lee Henry Oswald."

The CIA witness claimed that the actual voice recording of the telephone conversation "was destroyed in routine destruction procedures approximately one week after it was received." Yet more than seven weeks later, the FBI claimed to have heard the telephone conversation that the CIA said had been destroyed. The FBI's judgment was that the voice did not belong to Oswald.

Wrote the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover on Nov. 23, 1963: "The Central Intelligence Agency advised that on Oct. 1, 1963, an extremely sensitive source had reported that an individual identified himself as Lee Oswald, who contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring as to any messages.

"Special agents of this bureau, who have conversed with Oswald in Dallas, Tex., have observed photographs of the individual referred to above and have listened to a recording of his voice. These special agents are of the opinion that the above-referred-to individual was not Lee Harvey Oswald"

The House investigators are beginning to wonder whether the CIA concocted the whole Oswald adventure in Mexico City in an attempt to conceal his real activities in Dallas.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

27 MAY 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes, 27 May 1977

The DCI was being interviewed by Dan Rather of CBS. John McMahon represented Admiral Murphy. Mr. Knoche chaired the meeting.

Miller said the first session with Chairman Stokes of the House Assassinations Committee had gone well and promised to be a cooperative relationship. We received the files of 19 Committee employees for additional security review.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

3 June 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 3 June 1977

Admiral Turner was at his OEOB office. Mr. Knoche chaired the meeting.

Miller advised that the House Assassinations Committee Staff has received its first staff clearances and went on to note that they are moving at a slow and deliberate pace and have asked that substantive relationships with it be held in abeyance until a counsel is named.

TOP SECRET

19 July 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 19 July 1977

The Director was at his IC office. Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Hetu advised that the CIA memorandum alluded to in today's Jack Anderson column in the Washington Post (attached) was provided by the DDO and should put this old allegation to rest re an alleged connection with Oswald via "Morris Bishop."

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Behind the Bureaucratic Detente

The top brass of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division and the Interstate Commerce Commission got together in the back rooms the other day to discuss their mutual animosities. Everyone shook hands and, immediately afterward, the antitrust officials began pulling their punches to spare the ICC from embarrassment.

Here are the fascinating events that led to the detente between the two bureaucratic baronies.

The ICC's reluctant regulators had been fuming over some stinging criticism from the Justice Department's trustbusters. The Antitrust Division uncharitably had blasted the ICC for several anti-consumer decisions.

This stirred the ICC's new boss, A. Daniel O'Neal, to seek a peace conference with the Justice Department's acting antitrust chief, John Shenefield. They sat down together behind closed doors, each attended by aides.

An O'Neal aide asked the antitrust officials, please, to stop issuing "cheap-shot press releases" against the ICC. O'Neal put it more delicately: with apparent sincerity, he offered to incorporate more antitrust philosophy into ICC decisions.

By all accounts, the trustbusters were so overcome by O'Neal's cooperative attitude that they rushed out and reversed an earlier decision to challenge another ICC ruling.

This was a ruling to deny a small bus company, Latin Express Service, the right to provide limited service between Miami, Fla., and Union City, N.J. The company wanted to serve Spanish-speaking travelers who have difficulty on Greyhound and Trailways buses.

Latin Express, for example, would

have provided bilingual drivers and food with a Spanish flavor. Yet ICC denied the little company permission to run only two or three roundtrips a week. The ICC ruling, incredibly, claimed this limited service might harm the busing giants, Greyhound and Trailways.

The Antitrust Division, which is supposed to encourage competition, objected to the ridiculous ruling. One fuming antitrust official called it "so outrageous as to boggle the mind." It was absurd, he said, "to think Latin Express could have diverted enough revenue from Greyhound or Trailways" to endanger them.

The Antitrust Division, therefore, decided to challenge the ICC decision, and another sharp statement was started through the bureaucratic machinery. But then the trustbusters, basking in the warm glow of their meeting with O'Neal, changed their minds about the Latin Express case.

A spokesman acknowledged, quite candidly, that the antitrust chiefs didn't want to attack the ICC so soon after the truce with O'Neal. So the spirit of detente prevailed.

Unfortunately for O'Neal's sensibilities, however, the top trustbusters forgot to tell the press office, about their change of heart. The unwitting press office, therefore, issued another blistering release.

"For the second time in two months," declared the embarrassing release, "the Department of Justice has challenged an ICC decision denying a small bus company authority to provide new Intercity service."

The release quotes the antitrust chief, Joe Sims, as proclaiming: "The

commission's decision points up the impossible burden placed on new applicants for motor carrier operating authority by the ICC, even when the proposed service is highly specialized and the applicant is very small."

The only trouble with the press release was that the ICC ruling was not challenged as advertised and the decision to drop the challenge was made by Joe Sims.

CIA Memo—The Central Intelligence Agency had no comment last May when we quoted from House investigative files that the CIA was in contact with Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas on the eve of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

The files described an interview with a Cuban CIA operative, named Antonio Veciana. He told House investigators that he had seen Oswald in the company of a CIA agent who went by the name of Morris Bishop.

The CIA, though maintaining official silence, reacted to our story in an internal memo. We have obtained a copy of the memo which, in fairness, we are now pleased to publish.

This memo, written nine days after the column appeared, is addressed to the CIA's "Deputy Director for Operations." It states: "The Jack Anderson column of 6 May 1977 alluded to 'the CIA man, Morris Bishop,' in Dallas. The CIA did not have contact in Dallas with Lee Harvey Oswald.

"We have run exhaustive traces to identify Morris Bishop without success. The name Morris Bishop has never been used as a registered alias or pseudonym nor has anyone with that name ever been employed by the CIA."

20 July 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 20 July 1977

Cary briefly noted that the Director will be meeting with Representative Stokes of the House Select Committee on Assassinations tomorrow; called attention to HSCI Chairman Boland's letter which requested security clearances for a member of his staff and advised that he plans to provide same subject to the individual's eventual appointment to the staff.

5 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 4 August 1977

Cary reported that Chairman Stokes' staff has suggested that an intermediary other than the President, perhaps the IOB, be named to make a decision on the release of any documents we have relevant to their inquiry. The Director noted that Chairman Stokes should be advised that any document in question will receive his personal attention.

5 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 5 August 1977

The Director was on the West Coast. Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Cary said that in reacting to Chairman Stokes' request for material on assassinations, it is important to review material provided the Church Committee.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

9 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 9 August 1977

The Director was in route to the Agency having had breakfast with Godfrey Sperling and other newsmen. Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Dirks advised that House Assassinations Committee staffers have received a briefing by NPIC on the state-of-the-art on photographic interpretation and have been asking some rather specific questions re some photographs in their possession. He added that Doug Cummins, OLC, has been managing this inquiry. In response to Mr. Blake's questions as to whether or not this is a proper role, Lapham observed that we probably would have no difficulty but Mr. Blake asked to be kept informed with a review toward making some determination. (Action: OLC)

10 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 10 August 1977

Miller advised that House Assassinations Committee Chairman Stokes is pushing for some independent audit of our excisions of material provided in connection with their investigation. A lengthy discussion followed on the merits of establishing a special review mechanism. The Director noted that an option would be for him and Chairman Stokes to review any issues that might grow out of the Committee's random samples. The Director asked Lapham and Miller to come up with the best option, although in his judgment a DCI/Chairman review might be preferable.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

11 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 11 August 1977

The Director was out of the city on leave. The Acting Director, Mr. Blake, chaired the meeting.

Miller advised that in pursuit to his exchange with the Director at yesterday's staff meeting, agreement has been reached with House Assassinations Committee Counsel Blakey to move forward on a memorandum of understanding between the DCI and Chairman Stokes providing that they shall meet to attempt to resolve any differences over disclosure of information.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

12 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 12 August 1977

The Director was out of the city on leave; Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Miller said that he and Tony Lapham were satisfied with the draft memorandum of understanding between the DCI and House Assassinations Committee Chairman Stokes. He suggested that the agreement be transmitted to Admiral Turner for his review. Blake noted that he would speak to Miller about this later in the morning.

19 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 19 August 1977

In response to Miller's inquiry, the Director noted that he had signed the memorandum of understanding with Chairman Stokes' Committee.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

30 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

MORNING MEETING OF 30 August 1977

The Director was at his office in EOB. Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Waller advised that the Dutch journalist who claims to have some mystery witness in the Kennedy assassination case is probably ill-advised, since our information suggests that deMohrenschildt was not of a stable mind. (See attached article from the 29 August Washington Star.)

ARTICLE REPEATED
ON PAGE 40

WASHINGTON STAR (GREEN E)
29 AUGUST 1977

Knows JFK Plot Go-Between, Dutch Journalist Says

United Press International

Dutch journalist William Oltmans says he will meet with a Justice Department official today to discuss safety guarantees for a person he said was a CIA go-between in the John F. Kennedy assassination.

The alleged go-between is the second of two men whom Oltmans said were involved in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

"If (George) de Mohrenschildt (the first man) could be considered a World War II bomb, the new witness is an H-bomb," said Oltmans.

George de Mohrenschildt, a friend of Lee Harvey Oswald, was the subject of a book Oltmans wrote about Kennedy's death.

De Mohrenschildt, who was questioned by the Warren Commission, was shot to death with a 20-gauge shotgun last March in Palm Beach, Fla.

Authorities called the death a suicide, but Oltmans said two men visited De Mohrenschildt before his death. "De Mohrenschildt sought protection from the wrong people," said Oltmans.

Oltmans described his new "witness" as a "key man between the CIA in Washington and persons in Dallas." He refused to give his name for security reasons.

"He is a key man in the execution of the assassination in Dallas. De Mohrenschildt was a minor figure."

"I could not go any further than saying I think he is connected with the CIA," said Oltmans.

Oltmans said that, since his last "witness" died, he wanted "sufficient guarantees (the new witness) would stay alive" and sought them from President Carter in mid-June. The request moved through White House offices, to Presidential Aide Hamilton Jordan, and then was passed to Robert Keuch, Oltmans said.

Keuch, deputy assistant attorney general of the criminal division and the Justice Department's special council for assassination matters, confirmed he would meet today with Oltmans.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

9 September 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 9 September 1977

The Director was at his EOB office; Mr. Blake is ill; Mr. Wells chaired the meeting.

Waller noted that Blakey, House Select Committee on Assassinations staff, wants to pursue a "working hypothesis" that CIA had a connection with Oswald before the Kennedy assassination and later tried to cover up that connection. Blakey therefore wants to interview CIA people who would have been aware of any such connection had there been one. It was agreed that the staff should pursue any investigation to put to rest the allegation of a CIA/Oswald connection, but it should not be given a list of people to interview.

3 October 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 3 October 1977

Lapham reported that House Committee on Assassinations Staffer Blakey met with LC and GC representatives and stated that they would be taking testimony from a Mr. Hall who claims to have had a relationship with the Agency and to have signed a secrecy agreement. Blakey suggested that we provide a letter saying there was no such relationship or agreement. The only Agency record of any kind regarding Mr. Hall is that DCD considered contacting him but never actually made the contact. The Director concurred with a draft letter read by Lapham but asked that we provide such letters only to Congressional Committees who have a legitimate requirement. He agreed with Cary's suggestion that the Agency be informed of any information Mr. Hall provides the Committee that contradicts the Agency's records.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

2 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 2 December 1977

The Director was at his EOB office; Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Wells advised research is being completed on the statement by Mary Gentry in today's Washington Post (attached) that we ordered bullets for Lee Harvey Oswald's gun. He suggested that Hetu may want to consider a public statement denying same when the investigation has been completed. Hetu noted that the allegation appeared in an FBI memorandum.

FBI Documents on JFK Killing Raise Questions on Bullets, Oswald's Moves

By Margaret A. Gentry
Associated Press

Newly disclosed FBI documents on the assassination of John F. Kennedy raise, but do not answer, questions about Lee Harvey Oswald's movements in the days before Dallas, and about the source of the bullets that killed the President.

The 597 pages of documents are the first of more than 40,000 the FBI will release Dec. 7 to comply with requests under the Freedom of Information Act for its material on the investigation of Kennedy's death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The first three volumes were provided to a private researcher several

months ago and were made available yesterday to the Associated Press.

The documents, many heavily censored, show that the FBI attempted to trace the fatal bullets from the time they were manufactured until they reached the assassin's hands.

Agents initially were perplexed by a piece of evidence they found.

The bullets were 6.5-millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition. Agents determined that the manufacturer was the Western Cartridge Corp. of East Alton, Ill.

Agents in Illinois examined the company's production records and found that the firm produced 4 million rounds of this type of ammunition for the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954.

"The interesting thing about this order is that it is for ammunition which does not fit and cannot be fired in any of the USMC weapons," said an FBI memo dated Dec. 2, 1963.

"This gives rise to the obvious speculation that it is a contract for ammunition placed by CIA with Western under a USMC cover for concealment purposes," the memo continued.

In other words, FBI officials speculated that the CIA was using the Marine Corps as a cover to purchase ammunition in secret.

A memo written at FBI headquarters the next day noted that the George Zucker Sales Co. of Chicago had purchased about 2 million rounds for commercial resale in 1962.

In the first batch of files released, these were the only two memos dealing with the ammunition. The material said nothing more to explain or resolve the agents' speculation. Nor was it known whether the files to be released next week, and another 40,000 pages due later, would shed more light on the question.

The Warren Commission investigated the assassination and concluded that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy. The commission reported that this type of ammunition "is readily available for purchase from mail order houses as well as a few gun shops." It noted that "some 2 million rounds have been placed on sale in the United States."

The records showed that the FBI kept close watch and a voluminous file on Oswald from his defection to the Soviet Union in October, 1959, and after he returned to the United States in June, 1962.

But the bureau lost track of him for several weeks in September and October, 1963, and agents in Dallas, Little Rock and New Orleans were put on alert to locate him and his Russian-born wife, Marina.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

8 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 8 December 1977

The Director was out of the city; Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Wells advised that Station Mexico continues to have severe [redacted] problems with the [redacted] which has little faith in our ability to keep secrets in light of FOIA releases. In response to Lapham's inquiry, Wells noted that release of information acquired by a [redacted] of Soviet lines in the Oswald case is one point in question. Lapham added that he was meeting with Justice today on the further declassification of documents requested in the ITT case and possible additional Agency witnesses. Justice is asking us to further sanitize material already provided, some of which would impact on data obtained by Station Mexico. He explained that the 150 documents now in the hands of Justice could be subpoenaed and we would have difficulty defending our position unless we go to the Attorney General and perhaps the President. He will review and advise.

Waller advised that the House Select Committee on Assassination is apparently satisfied with arrangements made whereby members will read a sterilized version of the IG's assassination report while staff member Blakey has the unsanitized version in order to answer questions that may occur to the reader.

Cary noted that his staff officers were spending an inordinate amount of time sitting in on briefings, coping with the KCIA and Assassination Committee investigations, etc.

27 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 27 December 1977

Cary noted that the House Assassinations Committee is accelerating its work and will be levying requirements on the DDO for the release of a vast number of documents.

OP SECRET SENSITIVE

30 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 30 December 1977

Admiral Turner and Mr. Blake were on leave; Mr. Wells chaired the meeting.

Cary said House Assassinations Committee staffer Blakey has encouraged us to set up a task force to review the several thousand documents they have requested. Wells noted that there are officers in the CI Staff who will be departing in March and can provide full-time interim help in this chore.