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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
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AGENCY INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : PRIVATE  
FROM : HERMAN O. BLY. FT MYERS, FL  
TO : PUBLICATIONS REVIEW BOARD, CIA  
TITLE : LETTER: PURSUANT TO MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION I AM FORWARDING MY 300-PAGE MANUSCRIPT ON "COMMUNISM-THE 20TH CENTURY RED PLAGUE"  
DATE : 05/15/97  
PAGES : 8  
SUBJECTS : BLY, HERMAN O  
  
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTIONS : 1A, 1B  
CURRENT STATUS : ~~RELEASED WITH DELETIONS~~ Denied in full - DIF  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 02/10/00  
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COMMENTS : JFK-M-16:F10 2000.02.10.10:11:27:607044:

Kristi A. Kenniston  
Office: CIO/LGL



03/19/03 10:10 AM

You asked me to review an excerpt of a manuscript titled Communism: The 20th Century Red Plague, by Herman O. Bly labelled as copyrighted, and determine whether it should be released to NARA for inclusion in the collection of administrative files relating to JFK. These "administrative" files include documents such as this one, which might be considered substantive JFK records, discovered after the bulk of the JFK collection was constructed. After further discussion, I found that the document is already in NARA's custody but not yet accessible to the public; the issue is whether to pull it out of the collection, authorize NARA to release it in full, or redact it in some fashion. Although CIO/Legal's preference is to take it out of the collection, we understand the political difficulties in doing so (specifically an anticipated strong objection from NARA) and consequently endorse redacting the document, as well as the attached cover letter and statement of background information, in full for as long as allowable under the JFK Act.

The draft was sent to the Agency in 1997; along with a statement of background information, with a cover letter requesting review by the CIA Publications Review Board (PRB). None of these documents should have been considered relevant to the JFK Act. The cover letter and statement of background information contain no information about JFK whatsoever. The draft itself, while it does include a small amount of information on JFK, is not a Government record and is consequently not responsive to the Act. Manuscripts submitted for review to the PRB and housed in its files, such as the draft at issue here, contain only non-official views, and are not used to further Government business. The information in this manuscript is only the personal view of an ex-employee in his non-official capacity. The copyright label is a further indication that this was at no time meant to be considered a Government record, but the personal record of an author.

Nonetheless, because the documents have been released to NARA already, the best solution is to withhold them for as long as NARA will allow us to do so. Because the records will have been accessioned to NARA by the time they will be released, NARA is the proper agency to address whether the information is actually copyrighted, and how that impacts release to the public.

Please let me know if my factual understanding is incorrect, or if you have any questions.

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

Herman O. Bly  
5515 Shalley Circle  
Fort Myers, Florida 33919

21 MAY 97 14: 0

May 15, 1997

Central Intelligence Agency  
Att: Dr. John Hedley, Publications Review Board  
Room 1003IP Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Dr. Hedley:

Pursuant to my telephone conversation with Mary Lou Cummings of your staff, I am forwarding herewith my 300 page manuscript "Communism - The 20th Century Red Plague" for your review and approval.

I served as a Special Agent of the FBI from 1940 to 1963 and as a Senior Staff Officer at CIA from 1963 to 1968.

This manuscript tells the story of Marxist-Leninist Communism and the "cold war" in an unusual manner never before told in one serious volume. It is laudatory of the operations of the agencies of the Intelligence Community.

You may be especially interested in the guest newspaper article I wrote for the Fort Myers News Press on June 3, 1979 entitled "Damage to U.S. Intelligence Agencies Endangers National Security" which appears on pages 287-291 in the appendix of the manuscript. This article won the prestigious George Washington Honor Medal in the 1979 national awards program of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa.

The manuscript has been reviewed by the FBI which raised only two minor source questions regarding two Soviet Intelligence matters which are currently in the process of being resolved.

I hope to find a pro-intelligence publisher who will recognize its value and promote the book so it will reach a large segment of the American people. The Intelligence Community has been maligned by the communications media for more than 50 years. It is time to try to get more balanced reporting.

I await your reply with appreciation for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

*Herman O. Bly*

Herman O. Bly  
Tel. (941) 481-8774

Encl.

## BACKGROUND OF HERMAN O. BLY

Mr. Bly was born in Virginia in 1913; educated in the public schools at Winchester, Va; and has a Juris Doctor degree from George Washington University. He was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar in 1939, and the Virginia Bar in 1946. He has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and was a member of the Federal Bar Association until his retirement.

Mr. Bly's knowledge of communism began in 1940 when he became a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). During his 23 years in the FBI most of his service was directly involved in the investigations of the subversive elements within the United States. From 1943-1945 he was one of the key Special Agents in the New York Office of the FBI involved in the protection of the atomic bomb secrets from enemy agents prior to the first successful test in conjunction with the Manhattan Engineer Project.

In 1946, Mr. Bly was assigned to the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. where he headed various key units within the Domestic Intelligence Division involved in the investigation of communist and other subversive organizations. During his 17 years of assignment at the FBI Headquarters he lectured regularly at the FBI Academy to Inservice Class Agents and to new Agents on subjects connected with communist activity. Mr. Bly also served as a guest lecturer on a number of occasions at the Naval Intelligence School at the Pentagon and at the Strategic Intelligence School in Washington, D.C.

In 1963, Mr. Bly retired from the FBI and shortly thereafter accepted a request to join the Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters in Mc Lean, Virginia, where he was assigned for five years as a Senior Staff Officer in the international communist areas of operation.

There are few men who have the academic background on international communism and who also have had the practical experience gained from working directly in the investigative and counter-intelligence fields of operations.

Following his retirement from Government Service, Mr. Bly has been a guest lecturer before more than 40 civic, Rotary and Lions Clubs, Lodge, Fraternity and Church organizations.

From January 1985 to November 1986, Mr. Bly wrote 54 articles for the "Lee Constitution" a weekly conservative newspaper published in Fort Myers, Fla. The circulation reached as high as 45,000 copies.

In June 1986, Mr. Bly gave a series of 3 weekly broadcasts over Radio Station WSOR in Fort Myers, Fla. on various phases of international communist activities.

During his retirement years, Mr. Bly has won four national awards from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa. In 1976, he was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal for his speech "Communism vs. Christianity in a Turbulent World". In 1977 he was awarded the Valley Forge Honor Certificate for his follow-up speech "Communism vs. Religion". In 1979, he was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal for his guest editorial "Damage to U.S. Intelligence Agencies Endangers National Security" which appeared in the June 3, 1979 issue of the Fort Myers News-Press. In 1985, Mr. Bly won the Valley Forge Honor Certificate for his pamphlet "America at the Crossroads" containing the first 20 articles he wrote for the "Lee Constitution", weekly newspaper in Southwest Florida. These four awards are considered to be an outstanding achievement for dedication directed toward bringing about a better understanding of the "American Way of Life".

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Mr. Bly published a commentary in the April-May-June 1988 issue of (SMI) Sound Money Investor, a nationwide magazine published in Cocoa, Florida. This commentary disclosed the various disastrous foreign policy decisions which helped to elevate a relatively undeveloped country in the 1930's (the Soviet Union) into the most dangerous enemy our country and the Free World had ever faced.

Mr. Bly's commentary "Is the Soviet Threat for Real?" was published in the October-November 1988 issue of "The Sound Money Investor" magazine now being published in Winter Park, Florida.

COMMUNISM  
THE 20th CENTURY RED PLAGUE

BY  
HERMAN O. BLY  
Special Agent of the FBI

The Unbelievable story - Why Did  
50 Million People have to die?

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B Herman Bly  
5315 Shalley Cir.  
Fort Myers FL 33919

## EPILOGUE

This book would not be complete without further commentary on my activities in combatting Marxist-Leninist communism after my retirement from government service.

During my 23 years of service in the FBI, I received 17 letters of commendation and one meritorious award. My retirement party was held at 5 P.M. on August 12, 1963, in the large room in the Department of Justice Building, where the eight Nazi saboteurs were tried. Director J. Edgar Hoover attended. I do not recall that Director Hoover had ever attended a retirement party for any employee less than an Assistant Director. So I felt honored that he had attended. A total of 132 FBI employees attended and signed my retirement book. I was presented with a matched set of Wilson K-28 golf clubs. The following Saturday morning I was fortunate enough to use these new clubs and shot a par 72 round of golf at the Country Club of Fairfax, where I had been a member since 1956.

In September 1963, I received a telephone call from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) suggesting that I drop by the CIA Headquarters and meet with Dr. Lothar Metzle. This I did. He offered me a position as Senior Staff Officer in his unit called Communist International Group (CIG) under a five year contract. My pre-employment security investigation was satisfactory and I began work in December 1963. Dr. Metzle occasionally jokingly referred to me as "Mr. CP,USA." I enjoyed my five years of service at CIA very much and when it came time for a renewal of my contract in

December 1968, the Johnson Administration was having considerable trouble with its Balance of Payments. Agencies were facing cutbacks and several hundred CIA employees were walking the halls at CIA Headquarters trying to find a spot to work after coming from abroad. Contracts were not being renewed and it was with regret that I left the CIA.

My service in CIA was varied. In the Spring of 1965, I was sent to Mexico City; my assignment to review all the files on Soviet personnel in Mexico which were located at the U.S. Embassy. I spent 30 days determining from the known activities of each person as to what extent he may have been engaged in espionage activities. From the information gathered, it was possible to determine more than 50 percent were engaged in varying degrees of espionage activity. When I returned to CIA Headquarters in McLean, Virginia, I prepared an 85 page monograph that was used as a training manual for CIA agents assigned to Latin American countries in contact with Soviet activities.

During the course of my review of the files on Soviet personnel, I ran across the following information that related to Lee Harvey Oswald and the November 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. First I was somewhat startled to learn that when Oswald was arrested in Dallas in November 1963, he was asked if he wanted an attorney. Oswald reportedly replied, "Yes, I want attorney Abt." It turns out that Abt was the New York City attorney for the Soviet Purchasing Commission and the Soviet Embassy. Colonel Rudolf Abel, a suspected key Soviet KGB agent was arrested in New York City on June 21, 1957. At the time of Abel's arrest, much

espionage evidence was located in his room at the Hotel Latham. When he was arrested he also reportedly indicated he wanted attorney Abt. Colonel Abel was convicted of espionage and served his prison sentence until 1962, when he was exchanged for U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers after long negotiations by attorney James Donovan.

When Oswald visited the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in 1963, the man he went to see was the Soviet official in charge of issuing visas. This seemed quite reasonable as the excuse by Oswald for visiting the Embassy was to obtain a visa to visit Cuba. The irony of this situation is that the Soviet official in charge of issuing visas was also the KGB Soviet espionage agent reportedly connected with KGB Department 13 activities, which included assassinations.

The third thing that intrigued me about the Oswald case was the fact that this young former U.S. Marine was able to bring his Russian wife home from the Soviet Union when colonels and other American businessmen were unable to bring their Russian wives home from the Soviet Union. Why was Oswald allowed this special treatment?

The above information worried me and when I got back to CIA Headquarters, I prepared a memo for the CIA official who had been in liaison with the Warren Commission. The "1970 Information Please Almanac" states that on September 27, 1964, the President's commission on the assassination of President Kennedy issued its report (Warren Report) which concludes that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President Kennedy. I believe the heads of the FBI, CIA and President Johnson in the White House wanted the Oswald case brought to a conclusion as fast as possible as they did not



want another crisis with the Soviet Union so soon after the 1963 Cuban missile crisis.

After leaving government service in December 1968, I did not lose my fervor in the fight against atheistic Marxist-Leninist communism. I kept on speaking out against this menace. The following is a list of lectures which I gave on various aspects of the communist threat:

September 9, 1968 - lecture at a meeting of the Arlington, Virginia Lions Club at the Washington Golf & Country Club.

January 12, 1971 - lecture before the Rotary Club of McLean, Virginia.

November 7, 14, 21, 28, 1971 - a series of four lectures at the Cherrydale United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia.

January 30, 1974 - lecture at a meeting of the Bethesda, Chevy Chase Rotary Club at the Kenwood Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland.

April 26, 1974 - lecture before the Methodist Men's Group of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Ft. Myers, Florida.

March 26, 1975 - lecture at a meeting of the Forever Young Group of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church,