

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GARY SHAW, )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 v. ) Civil Action No. 80-1056  
 )  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE, ET AL., )  
 )  
 Defendants. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

NOTICE OF FILING

On January 16, 1981, as Exhibit I to Plaintiff's Opposition to Motion for Summary Judgment, plaintiff filed considerable biographical information on Thomas Eli Davis III, Jean Rene Souetre, Michael Victor Mertz, Michael Roux, and certain other individuals.

Now comes plaintiffs' counsel and gives notice of filing of a lengthy memorandum, entitled "A Possible French Connection," sworn to under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. 1746.

Although plaintiff's counsel is exquisitely aware of the fact that an FOIA requester does not have to give a reason why he desires to see any particular Government records, he believes that it would be helpful to the Court in this case to know why he desires the requested records. It may be of assistance to the Court (i) in the process of weighing the public interest in the release of the records, (ii) on the question of a fee waiver as to search and copying fees, as well as (iii) to the granting of attorney's fees and court costs.

The memorandum attempts to explain the serious nature of the work undertaken by plaintiff and others in an attempt to identify the actual murderers of President Kennedy, even at this late date. The records might relate directly and crucially to this investigation. It is plaintiff's contention that the American public continues to disbelieve the conclusion of the Warren Commission that President Kennedy was killed by a "lone nut," who in turn was killed by another "lone nut"; and that it desires and deserves to know more of the truth with respect to the Kennedy assassination.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been mailed this day of July, 1982, to Ms. Miriam M. Nisbet, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Privacy and Information Appeals, Room 6345, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.

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*Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.*

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Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

June, 1982

A POSSIBLE FRENCH CONNECTION

In the long hunt for the assassins of President Kennedy, a Freedom of Information Act suit was brought against the CIA for the production of all of the records which they withheld from the general public. Finally in 1977, they produced some 1500 whole and partial "documents," including the following single, excised paragraph from a CIA memorandum or telegram of several pages dated April 1, 1964:

8. Jean SOUETRE aka Michal ROUX aka Michael MERTZ - On 5 March \_\_\_\_\_ the FBI advised that the French had \_\_\_\_\_ the Legal Attache in Paris and also the \_\_\_\_\_ had queried the Bureau in New York City concerning subject stating that he had been expelled from the U.S. at Fort Worth or Dallas 48 hours after the assassination. He was in Fort Worth on morning of 22 November and in Dallas in the afternoon. The French believe that he was expelled to either Mexico or Canada. In January he received mail from a dentist named Alderson living at 5803 Birmingham, Houston, Texas. Subject is believed to be identical with a Captain who is a deserter from the French Army and an activist in the OAS. The French are concerned because of de Gaulle's planned visit to Mexico. They would like to know the reason for his expulsion from the U.S. and his destination. Bureau files are negative and they are checking in Texas and with INS. They would like a check of our files with indications of what may be passed to the French. The FBI \_\_\_\_\_ was given a copy of CSCI-3/776,742 previously furnished the Bureau and CSD3-3/655,207 together with a photograph of Captain SOUETRE. \_\_\_\_\_ 1/

Thus began the hunt for Souetre/Roux/Mertz and a possible French Connection to Dallas.

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INTRODUCTION

First, in view of what we have discovered in the past few years, let us try to make the single paragraph in the long telegram or memo more

understandable and meaningful by filling in the blanks with italicized material, and by supplying certain additional and logical material in brackets. If we make these additions, the paragraph reads:

8. Jean SOUETRE, also known as Michel ROUX, and also known as Michel (Victor) MERTZ - On 5 March (Mr. X) of the FBI advised that the French (SDECE or DST) had asked the Legal Attache in Paris (who is an FBI Special Agent) and also the (French Intelligence Officer attached to the French Mission to the United Nations in New York) had queried the (FBI) in New York City concerning (Souetre), stating that (according to French Intelligence) he had been expelled from the U.S. at Fort Worth or Dallas 48 hours after the assassination (of President Kennedy). (Again, according to French Intelligence) he was in Fort Worth on the morning of 22 November (1963) and in Dallas in the afternoon. The French believe that he was expelled to either Mexico or Canada. In January (according to whom? The French? The FBI? The CIA?) he received mail from a dentist named (Lawrence) Alderson living at 5803 Birmingham (Street), Houston, Texas. Subject (Souetre) is believed to be identical with a Captain who is a deserter from the French Army and an activist in the OAS. The French are concerned because of de Gaulle's planned visit to Mexico (on March 15, 1964). They would like to know the reason for his expulsion from the U.S. (in November, 1963) and his destination. (FBI Headquarters) files are negative (on Souetre) and they are checking (FBI files) in Texas and with (Immigration and Naturalization Service). They would like a check of (CIA) files with indications of what may be passed to the French. The FBI \_\_\_\_\_ was given a copy of (CIA document) CSC1-3776,742 previously furnished (the FBI by the CIA) and (CIA document) CSD3-3/655,207, together with a photograph of Captain SOUETRE (neither of which had previously been given to the FBI).

#### A FEW PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

1. Who were Jean Rene Souetre, Michel Mertz, and Michel Roux?
2. Which of them was in Dallas/Ft. Worth on November 22, 1963?
3. Did any one of them have a "legitimate" reason for being there?



4. If an OAS terrorist were involved in the assassination, was it as a mercenary or on behalf of the OAS?
5. Why did the French wait until several months after the JFK assassination to inform the U.S. of Souetre/Mertz/Roux's presence in Dallas on November 22nd? When did they acquire the knowledge? From whom?
6. When was de Gaulle scheduled to visit Mexico, and did the U.S. reply to the French inquiry prior to the visit, and, if so, what information was passed to the French re the Souetre question?
7. Why did the French query the FBI rather than the CIA, and why did it query the FBI both in New York and Paris?
8. Is document 632-796 an internal CIA document, and, if so, who is to and from?
9. Why was document 632-796 and records relating to the subsequent investigation totally withheld from the Warren Commission, which was in the middle of its investigation at the time?
10. Only one paragraph of document 632-796 was released (with deletions); what is the subject matter of the remainder of the document, which is still withheld?
11. When did the CIA give the FBI documents CSC1-3/776,742 and CSD3-3/655,207 and the photo of Souetre? Where did the CIA get its photo of Souetre?
12. From what source did the French get their information about Souetre/Mertz/Roux's activities in and expulsion from Texas?
13. Which French agency queried the FBI? SDECE? DST? Other?

14. Why did not French Intelligence in Washington query the FBI or CIA there directly?

15. Why was the whole Souetre/Mertz/Roux matter quietly re-opened in April of 1977?

Many of these questions will be answered in this memorandum. Some will have to await further investigation.

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The French enquiry in March, 1964, which resulted in a flurry of "urgent" U.S. intelligence activity, should not have come as a complete and total surprise to U.S. agencies, because of certain obscure activities before and immediately after the assassination.

In early November, 1963, in the National Security Agency installation in Metz, Germany, there was an apparently unimportant incident involving an Army PFC named Eugene B. Dinkin, who was 25 years old at the time. Dinkin was a lowly code clerk who was used to decipher foreign broadcasts which were being monitored and intercepted by the NSA.

One morning Dinkin ran into an adjoining office and blurted excitedly that "President Kennedy was to be killed in Dallas." When no one would listen to Dinkin, he went AWOL to Switzerland and told his story at the U.S. Consulate in Bern. He repeated it at the Time-Life office in Zurich. No one took him seriously. Eventually he was arrested, flown back to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, held in the psychiatric ward for four months, and then discharged from the Army.

Ever since, Dinkin has been characterized as paranoid. However, it is interesting to note that at the time of his outburst, when he was deciphering messages for NSA, the message consisted of telegraphic traffic which originated with the OAS, the French "secret army," which had been outlawed by de Gaulle, and of which Jean Rene Souetre was a leading member.

\* \* \* \* \*

Equally intriguing are two arrests made by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Dallas on or about November 22, 1963.

An INS Inspector named Virgil Bailey picked up a Frenchman at an apartment on either Gaston or Ross Street in Dallas. He believes the arrest was on Sunday, November 24, 1963, but can remember none of the details other than the person arrested was French, and that the matter was top priority.

Another INS Inspector named Hal Norwood received two urgent calls from INS Headquarters in Washington, stating that they wanted Mr. X (named unrecalled by INS), a foreigner, picked up immediately. Norwood was very surprised to find that Mr. X was already in the hands of INS Dallas; he had been picked up on November 22nd or 23rd as the result of a call from the Dallas police, who had apprehended him. Norwood cannot recall who the man was or why INS Washington wanted him picked up immediately.

\* \* \* \* \*

If, indeed, there was an OAS terrorist in Dallas on November 22, 1963, it should, on thorough reflection, come as no great shock, because there is

a large pool of some 2,000-3,000 unemployed OAS terrorists roaming the world at that time, and they hated JFK with a passion.

It must be recalled that the Algerian civil war, which had been waged for a decade, ended in July, 1962, when President de Gaulle granted independence to Algeria. This independence had been granted over the most violent terrorist opposition of the OAS, which consisted in large measure of French military deserters, who had fought in Indo-China and Algeria and who were violently opposed to de Gaulle's "giving away Algeria." The OAS were trained in all sorts of mayhem and killed thousands of French and Moslem Algerians. They made more than thirty attempts on the life of de Gaulle.<sup>2/</sup> When Algeria gained its independence, they promptly fled for their lives. As they were persona non grata in France, they settled primarily in Spain, Portugal, Italy, and South America. There were 2,000-3,000 well-trained and available-for-hire killers. In 1963, they were the pool from which one would hire a competent assassin.

Next to de Gaulle, the OAS despised President Kennedy most. Why? A little research shows that John Kennedy was one of the staunchest supporters of Algerian independence since the mid-fifties. As a U.S. Senator, he made long and passionate speeches in favor of Algerian independence.<sup>3/</sup> He quashed every attempt by the CIA and the U.S. military to aid the OAS in their fight to keep Algeria French.<sup>4/</sup> He was suspected (by the OAS at least) of persuading General de Gaulle to change his course from "French Algeria" to "Algerian independence." In any event, they hated him with a passion.

\* \* \* \* \*



There were other peripheral events which bear on this matter.

When General de Gaulle insisted on coming to Washington for President Kennedy's funeral, strenuous attempts were made (but failed) to talk out of walking in the funeral parade. There was no assurance whatsoever of his security.<sup>5/</sup> In fact, French intelligence has confirmed that an OAS group set out from Montreal for the purpose of assassinating de Gaulle in Washington, but they were intercepted before they could get to Washington.

Equally, when de Gaulle visited New Orleans on May 3, 1963, there was a plot against his life by OAS sympathizers . . . all of which has been confirmed by one of those sympathizers.

As to de Gaulle's own comments on JFK's assassination, he said: "The police did the job, or they ordered it done, or they let it happen. In any case, they were involved in it. A trial would have been unthinkable."<sup>6/</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*

So who were Jean Rene Souetre, who were his aliases Michel Mertz, and Michel Roux, and what was he (or what were they) doing in Dallas on the fateful day?

JEAN RENE SOUETRE

Souetre, whose full name is Jean Rene Marie Souetre, was born at La Brede in the Girande Department of France on October 15, 1930.<sup>7/</sup>

According to a Justice Department source, Souetre has used as many as

eleven aliases. Among these are Michel Mertz, Michel Roux, Eugene Constant, Grammont, and Mangin.

Physically, Souetre is almost 6' tall and weighs between 175-200 pounds.

In addition to his native French, Souetre speaks almost perfect English, Spanish, and German.

Souetre has had three wives: Marcelle Berrotte, whom he divorced in 1961; Josette de Marcaillou d'Armerie, whom he divorced in 1971; and Francoise Houstic, whom he married in 1973.

The first we know of his career is that he was connected with the French 4th Air Force (Security Branch) with the rank of captain, and in 1953 he was stationed near Rheims. In his work there he cooperated with nearby American Army Depot and became a friend of Dr. Lawrence Alderson, a U.S. Army captain from Houston, Texas. He and Dr. Alderson corresponded annually at Christmas time through the years, up until the time of the Kennedy assassination. Souetre also became friendly with Alderson's successor, a U.S. army captain named Letourneau from Texas.

Souetre was sent to Algiers in the period 1955-1959. He served with the air commandos in Algeria, and he was the commanding officer of a company of elite parachutists. He received the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur and the Croix de la Valeur Militaire,<sup>8/</sup> both of which were rescinded after he joined the OAS. Before his defection, Souetre served brilliantly in the paratroops, serving directly under Lt. Col. Coulet, Director of Political Affairs for the Delegation General.<sup>9/</sup>

According to Dr. Alderson, Souetre knew many French politicians and described him as a political activist. He was of the radical right, neo-Nazi persuasion. And he became a military/political activist in Algeria, greatly agitated at the prospect of a Moslem Algeria, as opposed to a French Algeria. He was brutally opposed to "giving up" Algeria.

He was posted from Constantine, Algeria, to Nimis, France, in the last few days of 1960 or the first few days of 1961, but he never reported for duty. Instead, he went AWOL and deserted, taking a handful of his enlisted men with him.

Toward mid-February, 1961, two political tracts appeared in Algiers, proclaiming establishment of the first French Algeria Maquis. A second tract, addressed specifically to officers and non-coms, appeared three days later. These were the work of Souetre and one Andre Brousse de Montpeyroux, who had formed a Second Maquis. Soon thereafter, another Maquis was formed by Sgt. Jean Petit, known disingenuously as the Petitjean Maquis.

On February 22, 1961, Souetre, Montpeyroux, three sergeants and five civilians were arrested on the premises of a Moslem religious brotherhood; sanctuary normally granted on religious premises was ignored because of the existence of an armed insurrection. The capture took place at Bouguirat, in Mostaganem. Among those arrested was Henry Slobova.<sup>10/</sup>

After the arrest, there was some period of indecision while the authorities decided whether the prosecution would be civil or military, and whether punishment was to be stern or the matter treated lightly. It was decided that the prosecution would be civil and stern.

On February 25, 1961, Souetre and his confreres were transferred to Algiers by air. Souetre and Montpeyroux, et al., were arraigned before a Judge d'Instruction on February 28, 1961. Hence, they were transferred to the prison de Maison Carree. On April 15, Souetre and Montpeyroux were transferred again, this time to the Prison de la Sante in France. Before the "putsch" in Algeria in April, 1961, they were transferred once more, for security reasons.<sup>11/</sup>

On July 21, 1961, it was decided that, after all, Souetre and Montpeyroux would be tried, not in a civil court, but in a special Military Tribunal which had been formed after the "putsch."<sup>12/</sup> On December 17, 1961, all of the members of Souetre's First Algerian Maquis went on trial. On December 21, 1961, the Tribunal sentenced Souetre to a three-year term, then suspended the sentence, but then simultaneously transferred him to an indefinite term of administrative detention at Saint Maurice l'Ardoise. It was there, in January of 1962, that he married Mlle. d'Armerie, with Gen. Claude Clement assisting in the civil ceremony.<sup>13/</sup> In February, 1962, Souetre and 17 others escaped from the camp at de l'Ardoise. Ten were recaptured, but not Souetre who went into exile.<sup>14/</sup>

Madame Souetre, a bride of a very few days, followed her husband to Portugal. However, disagreements between the couple developed, and Souetre furnished her with a false passport, so that she could return to France and begin divorce proceedings. Unfortunately, the bogus passport was discovered and she was arrested on March 9, 1963, at Perpignan, on the Spanish-French border. On August 10th she was fined 100 francs, and that's the last we hear of this Ms. Souetre.<sup>15/</sup>

The whereabouts of Souetre from this point forward become much less clear. However, on April 27, 1962, it was announced in Algiers that Lt. Pierre



Guillaume, OAS Chief in the South Zone of Algeria, had been arrested. And "sources" reported that he had been replaced by ex-Captain Souetre.<sup>16/</sup>

In June-July, 1962, after the Declaration of Algerian Independence, all OAS members had to leave Algeria in a rush. In August, a large number of OAS groups and individuals in exile merged into the "Armee Nationale Secrete," which has representatives in Canada, New Orleans, and Latin America; in other words, the OAS was continuing the war against de Gaulle wherever they could, inside and outside of Metropolitan France.

Souetre, who was in Spain at the time, is rumored to have been deeply involved in the planning of the assassination attempt on de Gaulle at Petit Clamart, on August 22, 1962. The following very close associates were physically involved in the unsuccessful attempt: Laszlo Varga, Lajos Marton, Gyula Sari, and Francois Duprat.<sup>17/</sup>

In 1963, Souetre sought refuge in Spain, along with a number of other OAS deserters. On several occasions he approached CIA agents and tried to persuade them to have the U.S. give its backing to the OAS as the only "viable alternative to communism" in France. Specifically, in May 1963, Souetre and an OAS colleague (believed to be Pierre Sergent) approached CIA agents and attempted to enlist support of the U.S. for their anti-Gaullist operations. Souetre identified himself as OAS "coordinator of external affairs." There are several CIA documents relating to these approaches:<sup>18/</sup> Souetre travelled on various passports, including (according to him) a U.S. passport. He also claimed to be documented as a citizen of Martinique. He stated that he had U.S. contacts who could arrange documentation for him.

According to a former member of SAC (de Gaulle's special anti-OAS police)

who knew Souetre very well, Souetre did the following in April-May, 1963:

a) met Howard Hunt and Jean Claude Perez (Chief of ORO) in Madrid; b) went to the Caribbean with Laszlo Varga, Lajos Marton, and \_\_\_\_\_ Buscia; c) went to New Orleans and met with Carlos Bringuier; d) went to Dallas and met with General Edwin Walker; e) went to Lake Pointchartrain and helped train anti-Castro Cubans. It is known, in any event, that during this period he had many contacts with anti-Castro Cubans. It is also known that he visited Spain in July, 1963.

If, as the French believe, he was in Dallas in November, 1963, the reason is unknown. On March 5, 1964, INS searched its files on Souetre and said they came up with nothing on him or his aliases Roux and Mertz. However, as of that time the CIA had both a file on and a photograph of him. It is also known that in the late winter, presumably because of de Gaulle's upcoming visit to Mexico, the French had put out a world-wide, all-points alert for Souetre. The query of the FBI in Paris and New York was part of the attempt to get a line on his whereabouts.

In the period 1964-1966, Souetre headed the Societe Expinmaq in Madrid; it was a "soueti de traveaux publics," furnishing work and cover for OAS veterans and exiles, such as Varga, Marton, and Sari.<sup>19/</sup>

By 1966, he had moved to Lisbon where he joined the infamous terrorist group, Aginter Presse. For a number of years, Aginter Presse served as a reservoir of contract mercenaries and hired assassins.

At the end of 1966, the Plan Kerillis went into effect; it was a plan to put Moise Tshombe back in power in the Congo for the third time. Aginter Presse was deeply involved, and its head, Guerin-Serac, placed (now) Major Souetre

in charge of recruiting mercenaries. Souetre, using the alias Eugene Constant, recruited and brought to Lisbon a group of about 50 mercenaries, mostly French and Belgium.<sup>20/</sup> In the summer of 1967, Souetre and company were given papers by PIDE (Portugese Intelligence), and they embarked for Luanda, Angola. It was planned that they would be parachuted into Elizabethville, capital of Katanga Province. Unfortunately, days before the planned drop, Tshombe was kidnapped (by SAC?) and imprisoned in Algeria, where he died. The whole operation was scrapped, and Souetre and his mercenaries returned to Spain without a fight.<sup>21/</sup>

Although officially residing in Spain in the period 1962-1971, he travelled widely in the Western Hemisphere, using a number of aliases. He spent much time in Martinique where nominally he was the Director of a sugar refinery whose head office was in France at Arcis sur Aube. He was also Director of a firm for Industrial Development in the Caribbean (S.D.D.I.C.), a branch of GFE in France.<sup>22/</sup>

Surprisingly, from July 1970 to October 1971, Souetre was a "section chief" in ETEC (Etudies Techniques et Commerciales), a cover operation run by OAS veterans Charles Lascorz and Raymond Courbet. It was a strange mixture of SDECE, SAC, and OAS. Souetre was responsible for ETEC's relations with OAS exiles in Spain, as well as relations with the Spanish Secret Police. He resigned from ETEC when he discovered the extent to which it was dominated by his old antagonists from SAC.<sup>23/</sup>

Currently, Souetre is a director of the (Mafia) Casino at Divonne les Bains, about 20 kilometers from Geneva, on the French side of the border. He also is believed to own a pied de terre in Paris at either 23 Rue Leverrier (6<sup>e</sup>)



or 10 Rue Dupetit Thouars (3<sup>e</sup>) or both.

Souetre was interviewed by John Cummings at Divonne on January 15, 1981. At that time, he said that "he and Mertz had served together in two units in Algeria in 1958-59, but had not seen each other after that time."

We will take a hard look at M. Mertz, whose name Souetre used as one of his aliases, to see if it is more likely that they met in Algeria or in a detention camp in France for OAS deserters. However, before we do so, we should examine briefly Souetre's old army buddy, Dr. Alderson.

According to the FBI, the first they ever heard of a relationship between Souetre and Alderson was in the French enquiry of early March, 1964. They interviewed Alderson on March 5, 1964, and elicited from him that in 1953, while in the U.S. Air Force, he became friendly with Souetre. During the next ten years, they swapped Christmas cards, etc., but apparently had no occasion or reason to meet. If the FBI account is to be believed, there does not appear to be anything terribly significant about the Alderson matter.

Alderson's account, however, is radically different. According to Alderson, the FBI interviewed him not later than six weeks after the assassination . . . certainly before March, 1964. And the interview came after a long pronounced period of surveillance, beginning immediately after the assassination. According to Alderson, he was questioned by FBI Special Agent Frank Rooks about January 1, 1964.

Again, according to Alderson, the Christmas card was mailed to Souetre's last known address several years previously and French officers had uncovered it in a postal dead letter file, he explained. "The FBI had traced Souetre



to Dallas a day before the assassination and then lost him," continued Alderson. "The FBI felt Souetre had either killed JFK or knew who had done it." They wanted to know who in Washington had had him flown out of Dallas.

Alderson claims not know who flew Souetre out of Dallas or why.

Who is to be believed in this whole affair? The FBI or Alderson? It should be noted that Alderson is an apparently well-respected, perfectly sane, practicing dentist with no known motive to dissemble.

Captain Letourneau has never been identified or located.

MICHEL VICTOR MERTZ

Mertz was born in the Moselle area of France circa 1920. As with many French citizens in the Rhine area, he was inducted into the German army in 1941. He deserted from the German Army in 1943 and became one of the outstanding leaders of the Resistance. His nom de guerre was "Commandante Baptiste" and he operated in the Limoges area. His exploits have been recorded in a number of books and magazine articles.

Mertz (like Souetre) speaks almost perfect English, German and Spanish, as well as French.<sup>24/</sup>

In 1946 he was taken into the French Army as a captain. He was sent to Tilberg, Germany, and put into counter-expoinage work. Shortly thereafter he was transferred to SDECE, France's equivalent of the CIA. Mertz served SDECE on missions in Germany, Turkey, and Morocco, using the cover of an army captain. In his SDECE work Mertz became a close confidant of Alexander Sanguinetti, a Corsican born in Cairo, and in his SDECE activities, he worked directly under Colonel Fourcaud.

Mertz married Paule Scheller Martel, the adopted daughter of Charles Martel, operator of the famous bordello in Paris by the name of the Sphinx. This was Mertz' introduction into the underworld of France and Canada.

By 1960 Mertz was actively engaged in both espionage and the smuggling of narcotics on a large scale from France to both the U.S. and Canada. Mertz was one of a great number of Frenchmen who had both SDECE and narcotics connections.

In 1960, Mertz got heroin from the Orsini/Checchini organization in France, smuggled it to North America, where it was distributed by Orsini people. On March 11, 1961, Mertz sailed on the Liberte from Le Harve to New York with a Citroen in the ship's hold, containing 220 pounds of French heroin.<sup>25/</sup>

In April, 1961, Mertz' profitable narcotics smuggling was interrupted when the SDECE ordered him back to France (and back into uniform) to infiltrate the OAS. He was sent to Algeria as a Reserve Captain, and pretended to be an OAS sympathizer.<sup>27/</sup> He quickly "deserted" and "joined" the OAS.

In June of 1961, Mertz was arrested in Paris for passing out pro-OAS leaflets. On June 2, 1961, he was taken to Beaujon, the detention camp for OAS sympathizers. On July 14, 1961, Fourcaud and Sanguinetti had Mertz removed from Beaujon. He told them of OAS plans to assassinate de Gaulle at Pont sur Seine. He was returned to Beaujon to get more details. The bomb at Pont-sur-Seine was rendered relatively harmless by the government before the actual assassination attempt was made, and de Gaulle escaped once more unharmed. In October, 1961, Mertz, the agent provocateur, was given airline tickets to Canada for his family, while the OAS perpetrators stood trial. He is credited with having saved the life of General de Gaulle.<sup>26/</sup>

Mertz returned to the narcotics business. He reestablished his contacts in Montreal and New York. On October 11, 1961 Mertz was back in France and from that time until 1969 he and his colleagues were alleged to have moved two tons of heroin across the North Atlantic. He was closely associated with the following well-known French gangsters: Christian David, Achille Ceccini, Ange Simonpieri, Andre la Bay, Jean Nebbia, and Joe Attia, all of whom had SDECE ties. Mertz was also closely connected with the Trafficante organization in Florida.

Several times during the 1960s, the U.S. asked France to take action against Mertz but the French refused because of his SDECE and Gaullist connections. He was literally known as one of the "untouchables."

However, after a great deal of pressure and after some weakening of the Gaullists, Mertz was arrested on November 24, 1969, as the leader of the so-called Bousquet ring. On July 5, 1971, he was convicted and sentenced to five years. However, he served only a small portion of the term.

His present whereabouts are unknown.

It is not clear whether Mertz and Souetre were personally acquainted and, if so, when and where. Souetre says they served together in the French Army in Algeria in 1958 and 1959; there is no corroboration for this. Also, they may have met at Beaujon or another OAS detention camp. In any event, Souetre used Mertz' name as one of his aliases.

MICHEL ROUX

The other alias used by Souetre, according to French intelligence, was

Michel Roux. It is not known whether such a Michel Roux exists or not, nor, if so, anything about him. However, as strange as it may seem, a Michel Roux -- deserter from the French Army, like Souetre -- did show up in Fort Worth on November 22, 1963.

In March, 1964, while tracking down Souetre/Mertz/Roux at the behest of SDECE, lo and behold if the FBI did not come up with a real, live, French Michel Roux who was in Fort Worth, Texas, on November 22, 1963.

The FBI's Michel Roux was born on August 31, 1940 at Soyaux, Charente, France. In 1964, he was described as a white male, 5'8", 148-150 pounds, black hair.

After three years in the French Army in Algeria, Lieut Roux deserted; it is not known if he joined the OAS or not. Like Souetre and Mertz, he speaks French, German and English.

In October of 1963 he was serving as a room clerk in the Proust Hotel, 68 Rue des Martyrs, Paris. He became friendly with two American tourists from Ft. Worth, whom he escorted around Paris. Upon leaving, they said 'if you ever come to the States, do come to Ft. Worth for a visit.' Next thing they know, on November 20th, they get a call from Michel, who said he was in Houston and wanted to come visit. He had left his wife and child in Paris and was alone.

The Ft. Worth hosts, whom the FBI refuse to identify, invited him to Ft. Worth; he came and was there at the time of the assassination; he returned to Houston, thence to Mexico, and then back home to Paris. According to the FBI, he never went to Dallas, though he was only 20 miles away from a historic visit of JFK to Texas. Nor was he expelled from the U.S. What follows is the



FBI version of how he came to be in Ft. Worth on November 22, 1963:

\_\_\_\_\_ Ft. Worth, Texas, on March ten, states he and \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_ made a business trip to Europe during October, sixtythree. While in Paris, France, they stayed at Hotel Proust, six eight Rue des Matyrs. The room clerk who checked them in was Michel Roux. Roux spoke fairly good English and also spoke German and French. Roux served as their guide and took them in his car on tour of Paris. Roux stated he had been in the French army for three years and was a Lieutenant. That he served in Algeria, and had an honorable discharge. Roux also stated he had been to a school that taught him how to operate a hotel or a restaurant and was desirous of coming to the United States and eventually opening his own French restaurant. \_\_\_\_\_ invited him to look them up if he did come to the United States. They also suggested that Houston would be a good place for him to secure a job in the hotel business.

On night November twenty, last, Roux called from Houston, Texas, in attempt to contact \_\_\_\_\_. The next morning, \_\_\_\_\_ returned the call and invited Roux to come to Fort Worth. Roux came by bus arriving in Ft. Worth during early evening November twentyone, last. \_\_\_\_\_ picked him up and Roux spent the evening with \_\_\_\_\_ and his family. Roux explained he had sold his car to defray his trip expenses and hoped to get a job in a hotel and later send for his wife and child who were still in Paris. That night \_\_\_\_\_ took Roux to the Fox Manor Hotel, six one one West Second Street and got him a room. The next morning, November twentytwo, \_\_\_\_\_ picked up Roux and Roux attended classes with \_\_\_\_\_ at Texas Christian University from ten A.M. until twelve noon. Roux and \_\_\_\_\_ were in a cafe eating when they heard of the attack on President Kennedy. \_\_\_\_\_ and Roux went to the home of \_\_\_\_\_ and listened to the radio and TV and later returned to the office of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ took Roux home for the evening. The \_\_\_\_\_ stated that during Roux-s visit in Ft. Worth he was not involved in any matter with the local police or federal authorities. Was almost constantly in their company.

Roux stated that when he first arrived in Houston, he checked in to the Hotel Montague/phonetic/. Roux left Ft. Worth by bus on November twentythree or twentyfour to return to Houston. \_\_\_\_\_ went to Houston on about November twentyfour, last and met Roux at the St. George Hotel. Six one one and one half San Jacinto.

Through \_\_\_\_\_ Houston, Roux was sent to Mexico City to work in hotel until Roux could secure the proper vise to return and live

in the United States. \_\_\_\_\_ received one or two post cards from Roux in Mexico City. However, he was unable to locate the letters and does not remember the name of the hotel.

About February fifteen, last, \_\_\_\_\_ received a post card from Roux in which Roux stated he was back in France and gave his address as Michel Rous, four six Rue de Baubeuge, Paris, nine, thru. Six three, four one. \_\_\_\_\_ both verified above information furnished by \_\_\_\_\_.

Michel Roux was described by the \_\_\_\_\_ as white male, twenty five to twenty seven, five feet, eight inches, one hundred forty to one hundred fifty pounds, medium build, black hair, fair to olive complexion, wearing black suit, well dressed.

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Ft. Worth has registration card showing Michel Roux, four six Rue de Baugeuge, Paris, Nine, France, registered there in November, sixtythree, but no date shown on card. She states Roux was there two or three nights sometime about latter part of November last. He was alone and left no forwarding address. <sup>287</sup>

According to the FBI, Roux entered at New York on November 19, 1963, and departed at Laredo on December 6, 1963. He returned to the United States at a later date, became a permanent resident, and ultimately a U.S. citizen in 1970; his naturalization is a matter of public record in Dallas. Although he has been interviewed by telephone, neither he nor the FBI will reveal the identities of his hosts and sponsors, so that his alibi for November 22, 1963, (that he never visited Dallas) can be checked.

Roux now resides in New York, in an expensive high rise on the East Side near the UN Headquarters. He has no visible means of support, no auto, no driver's license. He rarely leaves his apartment. Attempts to interview him in person have all failed.

One small disassociated fact: Michel Roux has a son named Dominique.

DOMINIQUE ROUX

While checking on a possible Michel Roux in Texas on November 22nd, the FBI stumbled across another and very interesting Monsieur Roux:

On March 5, 1964, Mr. A. Crixell, Pan American World Airways, Houston, Texas, checked the records of that company for flights to Mexico City during the period November 22 through November 30, 1963, and no information was located regarding Souetre under his name or known aliases. The records of Pan American World Airways, however, did indicate that Dominique P. Roux and Viviane H. Roux departed Houston, Texas, for Mexico City on November 22, 1963. The records also reflect that John P. Mertz, Irma Rio de Mertz and Sara Mertz departed Houston, Texas, for Mexico City on November 23, 1963. These records contained no further identifying data regarding these individuals. <sup>29</sup>

Although it is not known at this time whether Pan Am's Dominique Roux of November 22nd is the same individual, there was a famous French author and soldier-of-fortune by an almost identical name, Dominique de Roux.

Dominique de Roux was born in Paris in 1937. His father was governor of the Bank of France in Algeria. Roux, who became a well-known right-wing politician and writer, was married to the daughter of a former mayor of the Town of Royan. Roux was a very close friend of Giannettini, a former Italian intelligence officer who went to the U.S. in 1962 on invitation from General Delvalle, commander of the Marine-Center in Annapolis, Maryland. Here Giannettini taught several courses in "the techniques and possibilities of a coup d'etat in Europe." There is no date for his return to Europe, only that in 1964 Giannettini founded a European fascist action group, that probably later became Aginter. In 1964, it was called AMSAR and was financed by Spanish and Portuguese Intelligence and by groups in South Africa and Latin America.



Roux was not only a member of the infamous Aginter Presse, but was probably one of its founders in 1966 and one of its heads, along with Yves Guerin-Serac, an OAS veteran. Wilfred Burchette described Dominique de Roux as a "French agent of the Gestapo trained PIDE."<sup>30/</sup>

During the war in Angola in 1976, Dominique de Roux, was a chief advisor to UNITA, and a fellow advisor was Stefano della Chiaie, close friend of Giannettini and head of the Italian terror group Avanguardia Nazionale, probably the most dangerous group of all.

Dominique de Roux died in 1978 of a heart attack.

It is not known whether Dominique de Roux is identical with Pan Am's Dominique Roux, but Dominique de Roux would have been a perfect go-between the French Right and the Right in the Western Hemisphere: he was connected with the ultra-Right on both sides of the Atlantic.

Incidentally, Michel Roux's son Dominique must have been only a child in 1963.

\* \* \* \* \*

According to a "usually reliable source," Souetre had two close companions in his anti-Gaullist activities in the U.S. and Caribbean in 1962 and 1963: Jacque Roy and a man named Baille or Baylle.

JACQUE ROY

Jacque Roy, who was 48 years old in 1963, was a former Naval officer. He had been head of the "Navy Branch" of the Conseil National de la Resistance,



which was established by Georges Bidault as a successor organization to the OAS after the capture of General Salan on April 20, 1962.

Roy was involved in the Mont Faron plan of assassination of de Gaulle in August, 1962. In that operation, plastic explosives were hidden in the Mont Faron fortification near Tonlon where de Gaulle was to speak. The explosives were de-fused by Samuel Lehman, a double agent.

Jacque Roy is alleged to have visited New Orleans with Souetre sometime in 1962.

Jacque Roy was a leader of one section of Resurrection-Patrie, which had been founded by Souetre's good friend Jean Petit. In March 1962, he was given a suspended sentence of three years for proposing the creation of an OAS net work in the Navy. In July 1962, he was sentenced in absentia to 15 years for attempting to re-organize Resurrection-Patrie, which had been banned. On April 14, 1963, Roy and ten others were arrested as leaders of a major Right-Wing clandestine, terrorist group.<sup>31/</sup> In May, 1963, he was sentenced to life imprisonment, but was released in the general amnesty of 1968.

Lt. Roy's present whereabouts are unknown. Although he was imprisoned in France on November 22, 1963, he would be an interesting source as to Souetre's activities in 1962-1963, especially in the U.S.

BAILLE or BAYLLE

Souetre's other known companion in one or more visits to the Caribbean and/or the U.S. in 1962-63 was an ex-French captain named Baylle or Baille. Even before the open revolt in Algeria in 1960, Baylle had been an active

member of a "keep Algeria French" movement, which wanted to overthrow the Fourth Republic. The group, which was formed in 1957 and called the Comite des Sept, was made up of pieds noirs, including Robert Martel and Joseph Ortiz, and Baylle. Their movement was pre-empted by events and by the Gaullists.

Baylle, a pied noir, was a Captain in the French Army. He deserted and joined the OAS. It is believed that he visited New Orleans with Souetre.

Baylle is currently working with Souetre at the Casino in Divonne les Bains. He has not been interviewed.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL RIGHT WING

It is impossible to research the possibility of a French Connection to the Dallas murder without looking at the interconnections of right wing groups on both sides of the Atlantic.

The OAS and its successors (including the National Secret Army, Resurrection-Patrie, ETEC, AMSAR, Aginter Presse, etc., etc.) and similar groups throughout Europe were strongly linked by their common and violent anti-Communism. In fact, the OAS was formed in part because of French patriotism, but equally because of the fear that the Algerians, if and when they gained independence, would turn to Communism in the formation of their new state.

Many of Souetre's friends were deeply involved in the organization of many of these anti-Communist groups. Among many, there were Francois Duprat (leader of Jeune Nation in Algiers), General Paul Vanuxem (Chief of OAS in Algiers, main representative of OAS and Canadian Ukrainians in WACL until his death in 1978).

After 1966, when the World Anti-Communist League was formed, a more formal, world-wide linkage was forged.

Among a great number of others, here are a few American and other friends and constituents of WACL that are of interest to us:

Anti-Communist League of the Caribbean (Banister, Gatlin, and Ward)  
Alpha 66 (a member of WACL)  
Spas Raikin (AF-ABN)  
Aginter Presse (financed by WACL)  
Paladin Group (Otto Skorzeny)  
General Edwin Walker  
H.L. Hunt  
Ed Butler  
Permindex and CMC (and Clay Shaw)  
OOC (Old Orthodox Catholic Church and its affiliate the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia)  
David Ferrie<sup>32/</sup> "Rev" Bowen-Osborne, E.E.  
Bradley, Jerre "Preacher" Owen

#### THE OAS

Although the OAS (Organization Armee Secrete) is referred to generically as the anti-Gaullist movement which fought de Gaulle's decision to give Algeria independence and then later to punish de Gaulle for having "given Algeria away," technically speaking it lasted only from February 1961 to April 1962.

It was formed at a meeting in Paris in February, 1961, to provide an umbrella for various groups, primarily the Army group (Salan & Co.) and the civilian group led by Ortiz and Lagaille. Technically, it ended with Salon's capture in April 1962, and certainly in June, 1962, with Algeria's independence.

However, in a broader sense, most of the adherents to the OAS carried on with their anti-Gaullist activities for years thereafter. The "hard-core" OAS veterans joined the world-wide anti-Communist amalgam. They formed Aginter, Paladin, ETEC, etc., etc.

They undertook a number of activities in the Western Hemisphere. Speaking of the OAS in the broad sense, the FLQ, the Quebec Independence Movement, was essentially an OAS venture and a number of its militants were Algerian veterans.

Likewise, there were dissident elements who worked to break off the French Departments in the Caribbean (Martinique, Guadeloupe, etc.) and set them up as a separate anti-Gaullist state. It is believed that the Houma explosives dump of the Schlumberger Co. served as a staging area for munitions for these anti-Gaullist activities in 1961-62 (see below). These activities were closely allied to those of the Banister-Gatlin Anti-Communist League of the Caribbean.

The OAS made strenuous efforts to enlist the U.S. Government in its cause. For example, on December 12, 1961, in a suburb of Algiers, General Salan, Susini and Degueudre, the "high command of the OAS" met with a man named "Brown" who was CIA station chief in Paris. They asked for equipment for an army of 50,000; in return, "Brown" asked for trade preference in the "New Algeria" and U.S. bases in the Sahara. A tentative deal was struck and a draft agreement was rushed back to Washington. Needless to say, our Ambassador to France, General Gavin, had a fit when he learned of the negotiations. Equally, President Kennedy, who had been a strong advocate of Algerian independence since the mid-1950s, took a very dim view of the proposal, and he killed it dead.<sup>33/</sup>



Of course, we also note that Souetre's two approaches (see supra) to the CIA came to naught.

Likewise, Cyrus Sulzberger, the then N.Y. Times man in Paris, reported that on December 22, 1961, "there is a new secret organization in the (French) army -- more secret than the OAS -- which is trying to enlist American aid. But Washington has refused."<sup>34/</sup>

Soustelle and the OAS were financed in part by Ferenc Nagy and Texas money via Centro Mondiale Commerciale in Rome, with Maurice Gatlin (Anti-Communist League of the Caribbean) acting as courier on one occasion, all of which was known to U.S. intelligence agencies.<sup>35/</sup> It is also believed that Abe Spanel, former head of the International Latex Corp. helped finance Soustelle and the OAS; he published an anti-Gaullist, pro-Israeli-OAS newsletter in New York during the period of Soustelle's OAS activities.

On December 7, 1960, there was a highly publicized meeting in Washington between the CIA's Richard Bissell and Jacques Soustelle and the pro-OAS French Intelligence Officer Phillippe de Vosjoli, then head of French Intelligence in the U.S.

On April 12, 1961, there was a meeting in Madrid between General Salan and CIA emissaries; the New York Times reported the emissaries to have told Salan that the U.S. would recognize a new French Government in Algeria within 48 hours if no attack were made against either Tunisia or Morocco.<sup>36/</sup>

There are a number of reports that the OAS was encouraged by several elements of the U.S. military and "intelligence community," which, naturally, enraged de Gaulle. For example, the U.S. Military Attache in Paris and two

U.S. colonels were said to have been in Algeria and/or at General Challe's side during the military putsch in Algeria on April 22, 1961.<sup>37/</sup> There were a number of allegations that the U.S. was behind the anti-Gaullist putsch in Algiers. There were visits to NATO headquarters by OAS agents. JFK had to send Pierre Salinger to Paris to disabuse General de Gaulle that the U.S. was behind the putsch in any way.<sup>38/</sup>

The Chicago Tribune reported that discussions took place at unspecified levels between the CIA and OAS to arrange to poison de Gaulle.<sup>39/</sup> On November 6, 1961, Richard Kaalsen of CBS interviewed General Salan, and the interview was aired on CBS-TV, causing an enormous French-American flap over "freedom of the press."

According to a confidential informant, there was a meeting in March or April, 1962, at the Headquarters of the American Legion in Paris between a CIA agent named Witmarch and an OAS agent named Torjmann. He also alleges that Torjmann joined Baylle and/or Souetre in New Orleans in June, 1963.

#### THE OAS AND THE CUBANS

The MNC, an extremist Cuban exile group operating out of Miami and New Orleans, had close relations with the OAS.<sup>40/</sup> The same is true of the Anti-Communism League of the Caribbean, which operated out of New Orleans, and which, in 1954, had engineered the overthrow of the Arbenz Government in Guatamala. In fact, Maurice Brooks Gatlin, Sr., legal counsel to the League, is alleged to have delivered in 1962 the sum of \$100,000 to a group in Paris for the assassination of de Gaulle.<sup>41/</sup> This has been confirmed by Gatlin's younger associate, Jerry Milton Brooks. Brooks also said that Gatlin bragged

of being a "transporter" for the CIA. Gatlin also had close ties with General Gehlin, chief of W. German Intelligence, who helped the OAS on occasion. Gatlin fell or was pushed to his death at the El Panama Hotel in Puerto Rico in 1964.

Wm. Guy Banister was another link between the Cubans, the OAS, and WACL. Banister was a very colorful, heavy drinking, ex-FBI man in New Orleans. Banister was responsible for the capture of John Dillinger in the 1930s, served in Naval Intelligence in WW II, and became Special Agent in Charge of the FBI office in Chicago before his retirement in 1954. After serving as Deputy Police Chief in New Orleans, he opened Guy Banister Associates, a detective firm (and intelligence agency) in that city.

Banister, because of his experience and determination became the "king pin" of the Anti-Communists in the southern part of the U.S. Formally or informally, he played a role in a whole range of anti-communist groups, ranging from Cuban anti-Castro to the OAS. He was Louisiana Coordinator of the Minutemen. He worked for WACL and the Anti-Communist League of the Caribbean. He published a right-wing journal called the Louisiana Intelligence Digest.

It is believed that Banister arranged for the \$100,000 which Gatlin took to the OAS.

It was Banister who arranged the raid on the munitions dump at Houma, Louisiana, whereby a large cache of weapons designed for the OAS were switched to the Cubans (see below).

And there is a great deal of evidence (from Jack Martin, Tommy Baumbler, and from Banister's secretary) that he employed Lee Harvey Oswald



(or a Lee Harvey Oswald) in his anti-Casto activities in New Orleans in the summer of 1963. In any event, his intelligence agency was in the same building in which Oswald rented a small office ostensibly for his pro-Castro activities.

Another player in his same group was William "Billy Littlehorse" Dalzell, a New Orleans based geologist. Dalzell, who was born in 1922, spoke half a dozen languages, was a graduate of Georgetown University, served in Army Intelligence, travelled extensively around the world, and was "petroleum advisor" to Haile Selassie. He had an office in Clay Shaw's International Trade Mart, organized Friends of Democratic Cuba, knew FBI Agent Regis Kennedy intimately, and was a rabid anti-communist. Dalzell, who travelled extensively in the Middle East and North Africa, had close ties with the OAS.

Probably the most significant of these New Orleans based anti-communists was Wm. George Gaudet, a CIA covert officer who travelled continuously in Latin America and who published the Latin American Report, which was a joint Ochsner-CIA-United Fruit operation. The newsletter was solidly anti-Gaullist in the 1960s. Surprisingly, Gaudet had some connections with both Oswald and Ruby.

His connection with Oswald stemmed from the fact (long held secret and released by mistake) that when Oswald went to the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans for a Mexican Tourist Card in September of 1963, Gaudet was standing in line ahead of him -- they got sequentially numbered Travel Cards. Also, Gaudet's office was in the Trade Mart, and, before his death in 1981, Gaudet admitted witnessing Oswald's distribution of pro-Castro leaflets in front of the Mart.

As to Ruby, on November 25, 1963, Gaudet (or someone using his name) phoned the FBI office in New Orleans and gave them some obscure and irrelevant



(but covert) information on Jack Ruby, i.e., that he had purchased paintings from a particular art dealer in the French Quarter. It was something that a casual acquaintance would not have known.

Another friend of the OAS in New Orleans was Louis Davis, a dredging contractor. Davis, who is now dead, was a close friend of Leander Perez, Guy Banister, and Clay Shaw. He assisted Walker with the Oxford, Mississippi, incident. And, according to a friend, Tommy Baumber, Davis assisted Banister with a planned invasion of Gaudeloupe on behalf of the anti-Gaullist OAS.

According to Hoke May, one of the leaders of the New Orleans pro-OAS group was an ex-Dutch Army officer named Herbert Knoblauch. He is alleged to be a CIA contract employee and a mercenary, who spent considerable time in New Orleans. No further information on him is available.

Also, Ed Butler's Information Council of the Americas, in New Orleans, had two right-wing French directors on its Board.

CLAY SHAW, PERMINDEX, AND CMC

The name of Clay Shaw, who was the target in 1967-1969 of a sensational prosecution in New Orleans by DA Jim Garrison, very surprisingly also appears in this scenario.

Two inter-connected, right-wing organizations were established in Europe in the late 1950s and early 1960s: La Permanent Industrial Exposition (Permindex) in Switzerland and Centro Mondiale Commerciale (CMC) in Italy. Both groups were highly secret, dealt in arms, and were alleged to be conduits for the financing of Soustelle and the OAS.

Clay Shaw joined the Board of Directors of Permindex in 1958, the only American on the Board. The only other North American closely connected to Permindex and CMC was L.M. Bloomfield, Montreal banker and former member of OSS during WW II. Permindex was founded in 1958 by Giorgio Mantello, and Ferenc Nagy was its President; Nagy eventually ended up living in Dallas. Permindex was dissolved by the Swiss government when it was proved to be a conduit for OAS financing.<sup>42/</sup>

Clay Shaw, who was thought to be CIA, not only spoke fluent French but was also the recipient of a number of French decorations.

Permindex and CMC were alleged to have financed a 1962 attempt at Petit Clamart on the life of de Gaulle by Colonel Bastien-Thiry, et al.<sup>43/</sup> The financing is alleged to have been \$200,000, part of which was transported by Maurice Gatlin.

Permindex, though a Swiss corporation, was housed and operated out of Montreal in the law offices of \_\_\_\_\_ Mortimer Bloomfield, the world banker and ex-OSS agent. It was a strange conglomeration of jews, white Russians, anti-Castro Cubans, the Mafia, U.S. intelligence, and the "military-industrial complex." The obvious common denominator was anti-communism.

There is some question whether CMC was a subsidiary of Permindex or vice versa, but there is no question as to the closeness of their operation . . . they were inseparable; in fact, they both moved to South Africa in 1962 when General de Gaulle convinced both the Swiss and Italian Governments to shut them down, because they had financed OAS attempts on his life.

CMC occupied an expensive palace in Rome but rarely held any trade exhibits. It is rumored to have fronted several CIA activities. Among its

directors were Clay Shaw, L.M. Bloomfield, Ferenc Nagy (see below), Jean de Menil (President of pro-OAS Schlumberger Corp) and Paul Raigorodsky (Dallas, White Russian, acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald). CMC was closely connected to the Italo-American Hotel Corporation. CMC also had very close ties with Israel. Lastly, Clay Shaw's International Trade Mart in New Orleans was intimately connected with CMC in Rome and South Africa.

#### THE HUNGARIANS

The anti-Communist melange in which we are interested contains a rather strange group of Hungarians.

Ferenc Nagy, who was a cabinet member in the fascist Horthy Government of Hungary during WW II, and who was Prime Minister of Hungary until he was forced out by a communist coup in 1947, took up residence in Herndon, Virginia, until he moved to Dallas. He was President of Permindex and on the Board of Directors of CMC.

Laslo Varga, a friend of Souetre, was a veteran of the Budapest uprising in 1956. Varga took part in several attempts on the life of de Gaulle in 1962-1964, including that at Petit Clamart, in which Souetre had a hand in planning. He was killed in a terrorist attempt to rob a post office in a Paris suburb on August 11, 1976.

Gyula Sari, a friend of Souetre, who participated in the Petit Clamart assassination attempt.

Lajos Marton - likewise.

WHITE RUSSIANS

George de Mohrenschildt. Oswald's "baby sitter," June 1962-April 1963.

Worked for French intelligence in WW II.<sup>44/</sup>

Haiti 1963-1967.

Friend of Gus de la Barre, who, in turn, was very close to General Walker.

Friend of Clemand Joseph Charles who, in turn, was close to Duvalier and Jacqueline Lancelot.

Nadine Bestougeff. White Russian born in Paris; questioned at length by FBI for possible fore-knowledge of JFK assassination.

Paul M. Raigorodsky. Born 1899 in Russia. Served the U.S. military, 1920-22.

In 1929, organized Petroleum Engineering Co.

On Board of Directors of Tolstoy Foundation.

Friend of George de Mohrenschildt, leader of White Russian exile group in Dallas which befriended Oswald.

Jean de Menil. From a French/Russian family.

Born in Paris 1904 -- Lawyer.

Came to U.S. in 1941, naturalized in 1962.

Married Dominique Schlumberger, heiress of the Schlumberger Corp. which re-located from France to Texas.



Became President of Schlumberger.

Was violently anti-communist and anti-de Gaulle. Helped anti-Gaullist, pro-OAS activities in U.S.

Schlumberger Corp. French ownership, but incorporated in the Dutch Antilles.

Supplied arms for various anti-communist causes, including anti-Castros and the OAS.

According to Hoke May, Schlumberger cooperated with the CIA in the use of its explosives bunkers until the failure of the Bay of Pigs. At that juncture, Schlumberger got cold feet and refused to cooperate further. Thereafter, arms destined for the OAS were "liberated" by Banister & Co. and turned over to the anti-Castros -- hence the raid on the Houma bunker on August 1, 1961.

THOMAS ELI DAVIS III

Davis was born on August 27, 1936, in Jacksboro, Texas.

Davis served in the U.S. Army. The Army says that it has destroyed its file.

On June 18, 1958, Davis attempted a bank robbery in Detroit; he was given a suspended sentence and sent on probation to Beaumont, Texas.

According to Davis' second wife, Carolyn, he served as a mercenary in Indi-China, Indonesia, Algeria, and Cuba.<sup>45/</sup>

In 1963, he attempted in the Los Angeles area to recruit a group of mercenaries to invade Haiti and Cuba, but he was stopped by the FBI.

Davis told newsman George Carter that he used the name Oswald in his anti-Castro activities in the period 1959-1962 while Lee Harvey Oswald was in the USSR. Carter's lead to Davis came from Jack Ruby's attorney, Tom Howard. Ruby and Davis were associated in a gun-running operation.

Was it Davis, who was deep into gun-running, who visited Robert McKoewn and said that he was sent by Jack Ruby?

Was it Davis using the Oswald alias who visited Syliva Odio in September, 1963? Unkempt, light beard, from California.

According to Seth Kantor, Davis was arrested in Algiers on November 22, 1963, while attempting to sell guns to anti-Algerian terrorists; he was released, again according to Seth Kantor, through efforts of QJ-Win.<sup>46/</sup>

According to the FBI, Davis was arrested in Tangiers on December 8, 1963, again for attempting to sell illegal arms. On his person was a letter mentioning "Oswald" and the assassination.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations studied the "David lead" but dropped it because of the limitation of time and resources.<sup>47/</sup>

As to files on Davis, on August 12, 1980, Army Intelligence said that its file on Davis (E5057666) had been destroyed. The State Department says that its file on Davis has been "lost."

Davis died on September 6, 1973, while stealing 3/4 inch copper cable from an "abandoned" rock crusher -- he cut a cable containing 7700 volts.

SUMMARY

According to French Intelligence, Jean Rene Souetre, who used the aliases Michel Mertz and Michel Roux, was in Dallas on the afternoon of November 22, 1963, and was "expelled" by the U.S. Government within 48 hours, possibly to Mexico. The French were concerned because of an up-comin- visit by de Gaulle to Mexico, and they considered Souetre a threat to de Gaulle's safety.

All indications are that Souetre was a trained and experienced terrorist and perfectly capable of murder.

Equally, if it were in fact Mertz who was in Dallas instead of or in addition to Souetre, he too was a trained and experienced terrorist.

There is no indication that either Souetre or Mertz had any "legitimate reason" to be in Dallas on that particular day, or why they should be "expelled" by the U.S. Government.

As to Michel Roux, his story (as told by the FBI) is a bit incredulous. Additionally, the FBI doggedly refuses to identify his two Fort Worth, Texas, patrons, hence making it impossible to check his alibi. As to his capacity or incapacity as an assassin, we know only that he too was a deserter from the French Army in Algeria.

Further, we have Dr. Alderson, whose credibility we have no reason to doubt, insisting that the FBI tracked Souetre to Dallas the day before the assassination, that the FBI believed Souetre was somehow connected with the assassination, and that the FBI began their surveillance on him, Dr. Alderson, immediately after the assassination.


In November, 1963, there was a pool of 2,000-3,000 OAS exiles, trained in mayhem, roaming the earth. At that time, if one wanted to hire a competent, trained assassin, the OAS would be a logical place to go for recruitment.

The OAS hated JFK because of his early and consistent adherence to a policy of independence for Algeria. They believed, and rightfully so, that JFK had vetoed any U.S. help for the OAS. They made 33 attempts on the life of de Gaulle; why not one on the life of JFK.

The U.S. Government (CIA, FBI, INS, State Dept.) made an urgent investigation of this whole Souetre matter in March-April, 1964. Presumably, some answer was given to the French Government. Yet, not a single word of this whole matter was breathed to the Warren Commission, which was in the middle of its investigation. Except for a very few excised records, the whole matter is classified and unavailable to date, some 18 years after President Kennedy's murder.

There were OAS plots against de Gaulle when he visited New Orleans in May, 1963, and Washington (for Kennedy's funeral) in November, 1963, i.e., the OAS was active in the Western Hemisphere at that time.

Under the provisions of Section 1746 of Title 28 of the United States Code, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.  
Executed on July 7, 1982.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.



FOOTNOTES

- 1/ CIA Document 632-796, dated April 1, 1964, obtained under Freedom of Information Act.
- 2/ See DeGaulle and His Murders by Joachim Joesten; Target de Gaulle by Christian Plume; and L'Aube by Pierre Demaret.
- 3/ See Algeria in the World, 1956-1958, pp. 156-160, and Algerian Voices by Richard Brace, pp. 70-71, 184-186.
- 4/ See A Savage War of Peace, Alistair Horne, pp. 197-198; L'Aube by Pierre Demaret and Christian Plume, p. 93 ff.
- 5/ Inter alia, see Death of a President, by Wm. Manchester
- 6/ DeGaulle concluded his statement "Kennedy's murder will involve all sorts of consequences. Blood calls for blood. America is becoming less and less a stable country, one that can be relied on. It is returning to its old demons." See La Tragedie du General, Jean-Raymond Tournoux, 1967, quoting General de Gaulle after the assassination; The Kennedy Conspiracy, by Paris Flammonde, p. xxvii.
- 7/ CIA Document 632-796; however, a Le Monde article of 2/25/61 says that he was born at Aiguemortes Les Graves, also in Gironde.
- 8/ CIA telegram from Algiers, dated Feb. 28, 1961, obtained under FOIA.
- 9/ Le Monde, 2/25/61.
- 10/ Telegram G98 from State Dept. to Algiers, Feb. 24, 1961. Brousse de Montpeyroux, who later escaped from hospital before his trial, was born in 1912 and had served as a Lt. in the SAS. He had been Maire of Saint Benoit de Gault.
- 11/ Le Monde, Feb. 26, 1961; April 16 & 17, 1961; May 27, 1961.
- 12/ Le Monde, July 22, 1961.
- 13/ Le Monde, Dec. 21, 1961; Jan. 27, 1961.
- 14/ Souetre published his account of all of these events in Algerie Francaise, 1942-1962 by Philippe Heduy, 1980; Souetre's article, entitled "The First Underground," is appended hereto, in English, as Appendix A.

- 15/ Le Monde, March 12 & 14, 1963; Aug. 11, 1963; Le Figaro, Nov. 8, 1963.
- 16/ Le Monde, April 27, 1962.
- 17/ CIA telegram of June 25, 1963; Joesten, DeGaulle and His Murderers, pp. 55-56; Le Figaro, Aug. 25, 1962.
- 18/ See CIA telegrams CSC1-3/776,742 and CSD3-3/655,207 (appended hereto as Appendix B).
- 19/ Aux Ordres du SAC, Gilbert Lecavelier, 1982.
- 20/ L'Orchestre Noir, Frederick Laurent, pp. 140-141.
- 21/ Ibid.
- 22/ It is not clear exactly what periods of time he spent in Martinique. He was there off and on during the 1960s. The Historical Society of Martinique has documented that he resided there 1972-75; he went home to Europe in Feb. 1975, via a holiday in N.Y. (letter of March 31, 1982).
- 23/ Lecavelier, op. cit.
- 24/ For published accounts of Mertz's exploits, see, for example, The Heroin Trail, Newsday, 1973, pp. 109-129; Target de Gaulle, Pierre Demaret, pp. 98-106; and The Marseilles Mafia, Pierre Galant, 1979, pp. 41-55.
- 25/ The Heroin Trail, op. cit., p. 112.
- 26/ Ibid., p. 109.
- 27/ There is a minority view as to Mertz's political sympathies. A former high official in the anti-OAS ranks that de Gaulle established in 1960 believes that Mertz joined the OAS voluntarily in 1961 and that he was "turned" after he was arrested in June, 1961. He doesn't believe that the SDECE drafted him into the OAS as an agent provocateur.
- 28/ FBI (Dallas) telegram of March 11, 1964.
- 29/ FBI (Houston) memorandum of March 6, 1964.
- 30/ Wilfred Burchette, The Whores of War, p. 154. See also Frederick Laurent, L'Orchestre Noir, p. 193.

- 31/ New York Times, April 14, 1963; Telegram from Paris Embassy to Dept. of State A-2177 of Apr. 20, 1963.
- 32/ It is interesting to note that in 1946 when David Ferrie abandoned his studies at a Catholic Seminary, simultaneously he joined the Bylorussian Liberation Front and was ordained a priest in the Old Catholic Orthodox Church.
- 33/ A Savage War of Peace, Alistair Horne, p. 197-198; L'Aube, Demeret & Plume, pp. 93 ff.
- 34/ The Last of the Giants, Cyrus Sulzberger, p. 831.
- 35/ Paesa Sera, March 6, 1967; The Kennedy Conspiracy, Paris Flammonde, p. 222.
- 36/ New York Times, April 28, 1961.
- 37/ Wolves in the City, Paul Henissart, p. 107 n. Andre Tully believes that the CIA knew of the Putsch in advance and lead Challe down the garden path. See Algerian Insurrection, Edgar O'Ballance, p. 84.
- 38/ Henissart, op. cit.
- 39/ Washington Evening Star, June 16, 1975.
- 40/ Miami Herald.
- 41/ The Fish is Red, Wm. Turner, 1981, p. 205.
- 42/ See Paese Sera, 3/4/67; The Kennedy Conspiracy, Paris Flammonde, p. 213.
- 43/ Flammonde, ibid.; see also Cabal.
- 44/ Peter Dale Scott; Haage Post, Sept. 30, 1967.
- 45/ See State Dept. telegram of Dec. 10, 1963.
- 46/ The Ruby Coverup, Seth Kantor, pp. 44-45.
- 47/ House Select Committee on Assassinations, Vol. 9, pp. 184-185.



## The First Underground

When the time came to go to the barricades in January 1960, the Army was not "in on it," hence an atmosphere of profound mistrust between soldiers and civilians. In Algiers, dozens of tiny rival political groups cropped up, neutralized each other, excommunicated each other. The Movement to Resurrect France grew up out of a need to coordinate action. It regrouped, in one headquarters of eight or ten members, civilian leaders of national or nationalist movements, dissidents from MP 13, from the royalist network, from the counter-terrorist networks, from colonial organizations which had been officially dissolved, and so on. To this was added a military staff section, also composed of eight or ten men, whose members were officers in the reserve, in the DOP, in the inter-service coordinating center or in the Arab bureau. In December 1960 the unified networks of the movement covered the entire colony with the cities of Oran and Algiers as strong points. My mission is liaison between military and civilian sections.

A general strategy is formulated in our headquarters: a commitment to action on the company level. We will overrun local authorities and place any territory we win under the command of such leaders as show ability during the campaign. Degueldre and I submit this plan to the "brains" in Paris. The operation is launched in January 1960. It is a failure. The officers from the Movement to Resurrect France run for cover, but the civilian apparatus remains intact.

Ordered to Constantine, I learn from General Fourquet that I have been transferred to Nîmes. In December 1960 I had met Colonel Chateau-Jobert. He assured me that a new operation was under way, organized this time by the Army alone. I decide not to take my new post and inform my comrades of my decision. With time running out, we plan to set in motion the first phase of our operation. On the advice of Brousse de Montpeyrus, the officer in charge of Arab affairs in the Movement to Resurrect France, we decide to organize those elements then under the control of the Berber sheik Ben Tekouk, who could exert pressure on the Oran zone. Even though we had kept higher headquarters informed of our intentions by two messengers, our initiative is misunderstood in Paris, and we are ordered by them to halt operations. They break contact with us to protect subelements of the network they hope to use later. Thus isolated, we run the risk of being forced to surrender or fight a hopeless last stand.

We cannot conceive of firing on other French soldiers, so all we can do is "make a show" in the region by seeming to fortify our bases among the isolated farms and by equipping our detachments with simulated heavy weapons. We send away the fifty or so volunteers who have already joined us. There are only seven of us left in the underground of sheik Ben Tekouk. Such is, in all its glory, the first "French Algeria Underground."

On the night of 21-22 February, 1961 the region is surrounded and then occupied by 3000 men supported by artillery, one regiment of tanks, and attack aircraft. Our campaign had lasted a little less than two



weeks. It had been a failure on the ground but a success in terms of psychological effect. Prisoners now, we had to do everything possible to remain in Algeria until the outbreak of hostilities we knew would come and then to escape and take up once again our place in the struggle which our comrades had initiated.

Definitively, this "French Algeria Underground" was the cover under which a much more complex operation was set up, one whose existence never came to light. This operation, like so many others, was never executed, like the one organized by General Gardy and the staff of the Oran detachment in May and June of 1962. The history of the O.A.S. struggle in Algeria must surely be one of missed opportunities.

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Jean-René Souêtre  
quoted from French Algeria  
1942-1962, by Philippe Hédouy  
with a preface by Jacques Soustell  
published by Société de Production  
Littéraire 184, rue de Vaugirard  
Paris 75015



[REDACTED]

against de Gaulle. Bouetie was born on 15 October 1930, in the Gironde Department of France.

2. Headquarters Comment:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



TO : Deputy Director for Coordination  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research  
Department of State

*OK to release*

FROM : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: OAS Attempts to Elicit the Cooperation of the United States for its anti-La Gaulle Activities

1. In May 1963, an attempt was made by the members of the Organisation de Libération de la Martinique (OLM) to elicit the support of the United States Government for their operations against La Gaulle. The attempt was made by Captain Jean René Souètre. Captain Souètre identified himself in the OLM organization as coordinator of external affairs serving under [redacted]. Souètre said that he foresaw the U. S. role as that of convincing other governments to cease suppressing O/L activities in their respective countries, and later perhaps providing monetary or material support. Souètre said he intended to provide some information about the activities of his organization which would be of interest to the U. S. In answer to a question on his status, Souètre explained that he travelled on various passports, one of them being a U. S. passport. He claimed to be documented as a naturalized citizen from Martinique. He stated that he had U. S. contacts who could arrange documentation.

2. [redacted] representative told Souètre that La Gaulle was the Chief of State of an old and respected ally of the U. S., and that the U. S. had absolutely no intention of working with any person or group against the duly constituted government of France.

3. Available information indicates that Souètre is the name of a former French Army captain who escaped from a detention camp in 1961. Subject to

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DIA 10 OCT 1981

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