

ing on the case.

Oswald had spent a lot of time in Mexico, so our Mexican office played an important part in the investigation. We also had agents in Canada, Central America, England, and Italy tracking down leads. We even got a note from a man in France who said he had six letters written by Oswald which would solve the case. He offered to sell us the letters for ten thousand dollars, but he turned out to be a well-known European con man who didn't have any such letters. He was later arrested and prosecuted by the French police.

We didn't have much on Oswald in our files prior to the assassination. We knew that he had lived in Russia and that he'd come back with a Russian wife, which was unusual for a couple of reasons. First of all, we never found out just why the Russians allowed Marina to leave the Soviet Union at a time when they were not permitting any Russians to come out. Second, she was a woman of extraordinary intelligence, much smarter than Oswald. Oswald had tried to commit suicide while he was in Russia by slashing his wrists, and we developed evidence that the Soviets looked on him as a nut, a nuisance, and were anxious to get him out of the country. This information was not firm, but was reported to us from a number of sources. There were so many other more subversive characters in our files with worse records than Oswald's and we had so little on Oswald that his case was considered a "Pending Inactive" case. Lee Harvey Oswald was really a cipher, a nobody to the FBI. After the assassination, of course, he became our most important subject.

But even after we zeroed in on Oswald, there were huge gaps in the case, gaps we never did close. For example, we never found out what went on between Oswald and the Cubans in Mexico.

Although his Russian connection had alerted us to Oswald in the first place, the bureau really couldn't keep him under surveillance merely because he had been to Russia and married a Russian wife. I can imagine the reaction of the Civil Liberties Union if we had—"Can't American citizens go to Russia without being hounded by the FBI?" Oswald wasn't a criminal, just a nut, and the FBI doesn't have the facilities to keep tabs on nuts.

I always tended to doubt that Oswald was a Russian or a Cuban agent because of his unsuccessful attempt on the life of General

edys in re-
stant direc-
from Mas-
Adam, but
he director
is brothers

Jack Ken-
med more
illance on
directly to
medy, and
all and de-
n his per-
quarters.
ourse, and
sip or any
ories, JFK
tement on
Kennedy's
marks sof-
alking be-
blic state-
er to the
was boss.
ssage.

l-blooded
nonethe-

Criminal
oo much
as killed.
Oswald's
t? Were
gigantic
ts work-

Edwin A. Walker. Walker was a right-winger, a John Bircher, but basically a nobody to the Russians or the Cubans. It would have been unnecessary for a valuable agent to take the chance of shooting Walker if Oswald had the assignment of killing the president. If I had to guess I'd say that Oswald acted alone, but I was puzzled by the accuracy of his shooting. Oswald didn't have a record of being an outstanding marksman and yet he hit the president with two shots while his car was moving slowly down the road. His third shot hit Governor Connally. I went to the book depository from which Oswald fired at the president and I looked out the window where he was positioned. I've been around guns all my life and I'm a reasonably good shot, but I must say that that would be quite a task for me. It was, tragically, damn good shooting.

On the other hand, it seemed extremely likely to me that Jack Ruby, a local nightclub owner who knew a lot of low characters, who was a police buff, and who had a working relationship with the local police, could easily have been a police informer. That certainly could explain Ruby's presence at the jail where he shot Oswald.

Hoover became disturbed by some of the things that started to develop. Both the Dallas police and the Secret Service began accusing us of not cooperating with them. Then it was revealed that before the assassination one of our agents in Dallas had received a note from Oswald telling the agent to stop hassling his wife Marina. The note was unfortunately destroyed by the agent.

Hoover's main thought was always how to cover, how to protect himself, so he began issuing letters of censure to men in the bureau. His theory was that if he was scored with having mishandled the investigation, he could say: "The moment the assassination occurred I looked into the matter and fixed the responsibility for what happened on individuals to whom I gave letters of censure, transferred, or both." Hoover always had someone else do his dirty work, so he appointed a friend of mine, Jim Gale, as assistant director to handle the inspection. Gale, of course, was told beforehand by Hoover what kind of a result to come up with even before he spoke with anyone or looked into a single detail. Gale didn't want the job at all, but had to go through with it. The result was that two supervisors were given letters of censure and transferred out of headquarters, which meant a

demotion in
ters of censu
never heard
division and
Hoover was c

Hoover w
ren Commissi
the bureau co
did, keeping t
doors. He was
Ford's rela
gressional cam
watchful eye
whether the wi
plete file devel
family backgrou
they played foo
subsequent conv
Gerald Ford
he made a speech
a pay raise for J.
proved it again v
William O. Doug

President Ke
tude toward Atton
Bobby," he once t
felt that Bobby den
bringing his dog to
Jack was president.
nedy realized he w
went out of his way
after the election.
Jack asked his broth
director he wouldn't
his approval, althou