

Fulton Lewis, Jr.

The Washington Report



WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 -- The heretofore unidentified "top-ranking Communist" who swapped letters with Lee Harvey Oswald is a veteran revolutionary once convicted of teaching the violent overthrow of the U. S. government.

He is Arnold Samuel Johnson, who, it can be revealed on excellent authority, wrote Oswald from Communist Party headquarters in New York.

Johnson urged Oswald to "keep in touch" as he moved back and forth from Dallas

to New Orleans. While the Johnson letters indicate Oswald was not under Communist discipline, they do show him to be a dedicated Marxist.

Johnson was indicted in 1951, and convicted in 1953, of violating the Smith Act. The prosecution showed that Johnson was loyal to a foreign power and that he had taught the violent overthrow of the federal government. He served three years in prison, getting out in 1957.

Johnson acts now as the Communist Party's legislative director and is a member of the party's national committee. When my associate Bill Schulz, phoned Johnson to ask about the Oswald letters, an aide informed Mr. Schulz that Johnson was unavailable for any comment.

It was not the first time that Johnson had been summoned. On May day, 1952, the grey-haired party official was scheduled to appear on a New York radio show. The program host, Barry Gray, had arranged to have Herb Romerstein, a staunch anti-Communist, debate with the party spokesman. Johnson stalked off the program when told he would share the mike with Romerstein, a former Communist who serves now as an expert consultant to various government security agencies.

NOTE: Another Oswald pen pal was Vincent Theodore Lee, head of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Lee first denied any knowledge of Oswald, who was arrested once for passing out Fair Play leaflets in New Orleans.

Lee then discovered in his files six letters from Oswald, and turned them over to the FBI. Meanwhile, federal authorities had uncovered letters from Lee among Oswald's effects. The letters carried instructions on setting up local Fair Play chapters.

Lee has not been identified as a Communist. In an appearance before the Senate Internal Security Committee, however, Lee said the fifth amendment more than 75 times in refusing to answer questions. He ducked inquiries about Communist Party membership and his associate's "black list" group.

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Orphan Gets A Deer

The Park Cities Jaycees in cooperation with the Fowler's Orphans Home took two orphan boys to Abilene for a two day deer hunt. Clint Frank, Bob Campbell, and Greg Boss handled all the arrangements for the Jaycees. The boys flew out to Abilene in a private plane owned by W. C. Fain.

Nick Browndyke, treasurer of the Park Cities Jaycees escorted the boys, David Hopkins and Ben Haskel, from the orphans home to Abilene.

All the boys got a shot at many deer, but the only one to prove himself a marksman was David Hopkins who got a good size buck.

KEY TO STILL