

(9) Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT Told of the "Gun"

In the fall of 1962, Mrs. OSWALD said to Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT one day when the latter was visiting her, "Look how crazy he is, now he has bought a gun." (Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT received the clear impression that he had very recently acquired the gun.) Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT saw the gun, which she described as being about four feet long. She was not sure if it was a rifle or a shotgun. She did not take it in her hands or examine it closely. Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT recalled that Mrs. OSWALD said the gun had something special about it. She believed that it was automatic or that it had a telescopic sight. Thinking it over, Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT believed that the gun had been described as having a telescopic sight but stated she herself is not familiar with telescopic sights.

(10) Other Aspects

Mrs. OSWALD frequently "pecked" at her husband, even in public, and on several occasions in the DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S hearing she had commented on her husband's sexual inadequacy. They do not recall that she ever made such remarks in front of him, although she had made remarks about OSWALD which were disparaging in his (OSWALD'S) presence. They were always bickering, picking on each other and fighting. They both adored their baby, however. In fact, Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT noted that Mrs. OSWALD spoiled the child and that he was worse than she in spoiling the child. OSWALD beat his wife sometimes when they quarreled.

(11) Final Comments

The DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S are not aware of any close associations OSWALD may have had. "Nobody could stand him." Upon their return from Russia they lived with his mother (or it may have been his brother) in Fort Worth for awhile but were "thrown out," maybe because she was so lazy.

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The DE MOURENSCHILDTs never heard OSWALD make any threats against any individuals whatsoever. Mrs. DE MOURENSCHILDT considered him "cuckoo" but not "bad" in the sense of being likely to resort to physical violence. His beating of his wife was due to a special situation.

1Date December 13, 1963

Mr. ~~RONNIE DUGGER~~, Editor, Texas Observer, Austin, Texas, was interviewed in Room 549, Baker Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

He advised that he does not have any background information concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD, has no file on him, and has never interviewed OSWALD.

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on 12/13/63 at Dallas, Texas *gmc* File # DL 100-10461
 by Special Agent GEORGE W. H. CARLSON and
JAMES W. BOOKHOUT *gwb / gmf* Date dictated 12/13/63

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Date 12/10/63

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SAMUEL B. BALLEEN, Chairman of the Board of Highplains Natural Gas Company and Electrical Log Service, Inc., 1717 Southland Center, Dallas, advised he had been previously interviewed on November 29-30, 1963, by RONNIE DUGGER, who is editor of the "Texas Observer", Austin, Texas, and who indicated he was also a reporter for the "Washington Post" newspaper. Mr. BALLEEN advised that the article which appeared in the "Washington Post" on December 1, 1963, wherein BALLEEN was quoted concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD was correct. He states he first met LEE HARVEY OSWALD in December, 1962 or January, 1963, at the home of GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT in Dallas, Texas, although Mr. BALLEEN advised he does not recall talking to OSWALD on this occasion.

Approximately ten days later Mr. BALLEEN received a telephone call from DE MOHRENSCHILDT who stated that he was trying to help OSWALD and wanted to know if BALLEEN would talk to OSWALD and attempt to obtain a job for him. Mr. BALLEEN stated that he on this occasion talked to OSWALD for approximately 1½ hours.

BALLEEN advised that OSWALD appeared to be intelligent and extremely independent. OSWALD told him that he had been in Russia and his reason for going to Russia was to find out "what Russia was like". OSWALD said that "Russia was boring."

OSWALD advised BALLEEN that he received training in photography in Russia and it was BALLEEN's recollection that OSWALD had been employed by a newspaper in New Orleans, Louisiana.

During the interview OSWALD kept repeating "don't worry about me. I don't want any charity." BALLEEN advised that he got the impression OSWALD was too independent and he therefore did not attempt to obtain employment for him. BALLEEN informed that he was unaware OSWALD had Marxist leanings, and that during the conversation OSWALD was critical of Russia. Upon termination of the interview OSWALD said he was going to the YMCA.

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by Special Agents JOHN THOMAS KESLER and JTC Date dictated 12/10/63

VM VERNON MITCHEM:jj

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BALLEN advised DE MOHRENSCHILDT had approached his, BALLEN's, wife and other people, whose names he did not know, to have OSWALD and his wife, MARINA, out socially. Mr. and Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT went out of their way to befriend the OSWALDS. Mr. BALLEN advised that he does not know how the OSWALDS became acquainted with the DE MOHRENSCHILDTs but he believes it was possibly through the Russian community in Dallas.

Mr. BALLEN advised that DE MOHRENSCHILDT is reportedly residing in Haiti and can be contacted through the U. S. Embassy there. Mr. BALLEN is of the opinion DE MOHRENSCHILDT is a "beatnik". He said DE MOHRENSCHILDT, who is a geologist, became a "beatnik" after the death of his son. DE MOHRENSCHILDT prior to leaving Dallas had characterized OSWALD as either a "genius or a nut".

Mr. BALLEN informed that DE MOHRENSCHILDT's son-in-law, "RAGS" KEARTON, is reportedly residing in Anchorage, Alaska, and was exposed to OSWALD for about two weeks prior to leaving Dallas for Anchorage in January, 1963. KEARTON prior to leaving Dallas stated he had seen enough of OSWALD, that OSWALD was a "nut".

BALLEN states that he was impressed by OSWALD and OSWALD appeared to be very independent and a "critical thinker". Mr. BALLEN reiterated that he had no idea OSWALD had Marxist leanings.

Date 12/11/631

Mrs. RUTH PAINE, 2515 West 5th Street, advised that she has found no notes or letters written by LEE OSWALD or pertaining in any way to the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY or any related matter.

She advised that at the present time there are two tape recorders in her home. One is the tape recorder of her husband, MICHAEL, however it was not in her home during the time that LEE HARVEY OSWALD spent time at the residence, from October 3, 1963, to November 22, 1963, but was moved into the house when MICHAEL PAINE moved in about November 29, 1963.

She stated that OSWALD would have had access to another tape recorder but that it is not in working condition. This recorder was kept in the kitchen and she made this recorder available. It had no tape on it and did not appear to be in working condition. Mrs. PAINE stated that she has found no tape recordings or messages of any type that could have been left by LEE HARVEY OSWALD prior to the last time he was at the house the morning of November 22, 1963.

on 12/10/63 at Irving, Texas File # DL 100-10461

by Special Agents RARDWELL D. ODUM and JAMES P. HOSTY, JR. ⁶⁰⁶ Date dictated 12/11/63

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1Date 12/16/63

Mr. ILYA MAMANTOV, 6911 East Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas, advised that information he furnished to Special Agents of the FBI on November 23, 1963, regarding his knowledge of LEE HARVEY OSWALD was primarily based upon information he had previously received from his mother-in-law, Mrs. DOROTHY GRAVITIS, who resides with him at 6911 East Mockingbird Lane. He said that other information that he had furnished at that time was likely obtained by him from others who had been acquainted with LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He advised that any statement he made either publicly or privately which may have indicated that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was backed by the Soviet Union in the assassination of President KENNEDY on November 22, 1963, would have been based entirely upon his own opinion and conclusion. He said that any conclusions of this nature he himself would have drawn would have been based upon OSWALD's background.

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Date 12/16/63

Mrs. DOROTHY GRAVITIS, 6911 East Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas, was interviewed in the presence of her son-in-law, Mr. ILYA MAMANTOV, at whose home she resides. Inasmuch as Mrs. GRAVITIS speaks no English and is of Russian nationality Mr. MAMANTOV interpreted the information which she furnished making translation to English from Russian. All of the information herein is set forth as it was furnished by Mr. MAMANTOV as a result of information given him by his mother-in-law simultaneous to the translation.

Mrs. GRAVITIS first became acquainted with Mrs. MICHAEL PAINE through the fact that Mrs. GRAVITIS had done some teaching of Russian at Berlitz School in Dallas, and Mrs. PAINE had been a student of Russian at this school. Mrs. PAINE had allegedly been a student of Russian previously, possibly at a college in Pennsylvania. Mrs. PAINE's lessons cost her \$6.00 at Berlitz School and subsequent to that time Mrs. GRAVITIS gave Mrs. PAINE lessons in Russian at her, Mrs. GRAVITIS', home at the rate of \$3.00 each. Mrs. PAINE was a good student. Mrs. PAINE corresponded by mail with a teacher in Russia as a means of practicing Russian. Mrs. PAINE allegedly wrote letters to this Russian teacher in Russian, and the teacher corrected the letters grammatically and sent them back to Mrs. PAINE. This Russian teacher was allegedly an instructor in English in Russia. Mrs. GRAVITIS reviewed letters that had been sent to Russia and returned to Mrs. PAINE by the Russian teacher and recalled that the letters discussed domestic matters that might have been of mutual interest to two women, but contained no political discussion.

As a result of her acquaintanceship with Mrs. PAINE, Mrs. GRAVITIS had her first conversation with MARINA OSWALD in about May or June, 1963, by telephone at a time when the PAINEs were out of town. MARINA OSWALD allegedly lived with the PAINE family at that time. Mrs. GRAVITIS had a fairly long conversation with MARINA OSWALD on the first occasion and by way of conversation asked MARINA various questions which as best she can now recall included a question as to where MARINA was from and upon being told that she was from Russia Mrs. GRAVITIS asked

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her where she lived in Russia. MARINA replied that she had lived in Leningrad and had also been in Minsk. Asked why MARINA came to the United States, MARINA replied she came with her husband. When asked if MARINA knew anybody locally, MARINA said she had met some people of Russian descent, apparently in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and that they had helped her a lot. When asked how MARINA and her husband entered the United States so easily, MARINA replied that they had luck. MARINA said she did not want to have further contact with the people who helped her in Dallas and Fort Worth because her husband did not agree with them personality-wise. MARINA described her husband as an idealist. Although MARINA did not refer to her husband as a Communist, Mrs. GRAVITIS interpreted that MARINA's husband was a Communist because she was aware that when someone in Russia says a person is an idealist it means that they support the Communist movement.

When asked where her husband worked, MARINA stated that he was out of work. Mrs. GRAVITIS told MARINA that anybody can get work in this locality; that there is plenty of construction work going on. MARINA replied that construction work was beneath the dignity of her husband. MARINA indicated, however, that she herself would take any kind of employment except for the fact that she had a small child to care for. Mrs. GRAVITIS, thinking that because young men who had gone to Russia from Latvia in years past had returned as photographers, asked MARINA if perhaps MARINA's husband wanted to be a photographer. MARINA replied that he did. When asked if it was difficult to leave her country MARINA replied that it was not difficult and that she had no parents and, therefore, it made it easy for her to leave. MARINA indicated to Mrs. GRAVITIS that her husband had moved about very freely when he was in Russia; that as an American OSWALD was able to have a separate room in which to reside, this room being in effect the same as an apartment. MARINA indicated that had her husband not been an American they may have had to share a room or apartment with others. This was considered a luxury for MARINA and her husband to have been able to reside in a separate room. When they wanted to discuss a matter without being overheard they would take a walk and carry on their discussion while walking. Mrs. GRAVITIS received no information from MARINA that OSWALD had been

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able to possess a gun while in Russia or that he had been able to go hunting while there.

MARINA told Mrs. GRAVITIS that she liked the United States and was very impressed with how freely everything occurred in the United States; she made favorable comments regarding the United States. MARINA told Mrs. GRAVITIS that she baptized her child at St. Serafim Church, an Eastern Orthodox church in Dallas.

After the initial conversation with MARINA OSWALD, Mrs. GRAVITIS had approximately two other conversations over the telephone with MARINA OSWALD, in addition to other conversations with Mrs. PAINE. Mrs. GRAVITIS never met Mrs. OSWALD in person. Mrs. PAINE asked Mrs. GRAVITIS why Mrs. GRAVITIS and her family did not want MARINA OSWALD's husband to come to their house. Mrs. GRAVITIS told Mrs. PAINE that she herself felt that OSWALD was a traitor to the United States inasmuch as he had gone to Russia and then had come back to the United States. Mrs. GRAVITIS made comments to Mrs. PAINE to the effect that Mrs. OSWALD was likely in the underground in the United States as a Communist, and Mrs. PAINE did not reply, therefore, Mrs. GRAVITIS presumed this to be true. Mrs. PAINE never committed herself politically. Mrs. GRAVITIS considers Mrs. PAINE to be a loyal American.