

3-31-77

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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION  
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Attached teletype from Miami sets forth the results of an interview with Edward J. Epstein and his Research Assistant Nancy Leneaux. Epstein, a journalist who is currently preparing a book on the life of Lee Harvey Oswald, has been conducting extensive research for a year. One chapter of his book concerns George DeMohrenschildt, allegedly a close associate of Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife from 1962 up to the date of the assassination on 11-22-63. Epstein has done considerable research into DeMohrenschildt's background, and he advised that on two different occasions DeMohrenschildt broke dates for interview. According to Epstein, DeMohrenschildt called him in New York last week and wished to be interviewed in Palm Beach, Florida. Although Epstein was not interested, Reader's Digest, for whom Epstein is employed, instructed him to conduct the interview and pay DeMohrenschildt \$4,000.

Epstein did interview DeMohrenschildt on 3-28-77 and again on 3-29-77 up until 1 p.m. in the afternoon. Epstein indicated the only revelation of any value concerned the original photograph of Oswald which had previously appeared on the cover of Life Magazine and DeMohrenschildt contended he had the original photograph which was in possession of [redacted] Dallas, Texas, along with 10 tapes and a manuscript which DeMohrenschildt had prepared concerning his association with Oswald.

DeMohrenschildt was suppose to continue his interview with Epstein in the afternoon of 3-29-77. He did not appear and it was subsequently determined he had committed suicide. Epstein characterized DeMohrenschildt as mentally distrubed.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office determined from DeMohrenschildt's daughter that Gaston J. Fonzi of the House Committee investigating the assassination had been at the residence earlier on 3-29-77 looking for him. According to his daughter DeMohrenschildt was upset and had planned to flee the area.

Miami is in possession of Xerox copies of numerous articles found in DeMohrenschildt's briefcase during suicide investigation by Palm Beach authorities. Among these papers is a document indicating DeMohrenschildt had a current history of mental illness and attempted suicide on 4 occasions between July and November 11, 1976. Remaining documents failed to reveal additional information having a bearing on the investigation.

Investigation continuing. Department being advised.

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - External Affairs

APPROVED:

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