

September 20, 1977

430 East 86th Street
New York, N.Y. 10028

INSIDE SOURCE

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Mr. Frank Johnson
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am doing a book on Lee Harvey Oswald and have been unable to answer certain questions concerning his and his associates' relations -- if any -- with the FBI. Therefore, I am submitting these remaining questions to you, in the hope that you will answer them so that your answers can be published along with the questions in the Reader's Digest and subsequent book. If, for any reason, you would prefer not to comment, I trust you will inform me of your decision.

Sincerely,

Edward Jay Epstein

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QUESTIONS FOR THE I- to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investig.

1. Did the FBI know by mail intercept or other means about Oswald's contacts with Vitaliy A. Gerasimov in the Soviet Embassy in Washington D.C. and Valery Vladimirovich Kostikov in the Soviet Embassy before the assassination of President Kennedy?
2. Did it know through either surveillance or other means that Kostikov was in contact with illegal agents operating in the United States? Did it have information that he was a KGB officer? Did it know that he was suspected of being in the Thirteenth Department of the KGB? If so, what precautions did it take after the CIA reported Oswald had met with Kostikov on November 9, 1963.
3. Did the FBI know through surveillance or other means that Gerasimov was a Soviet intelligence agent? Did it have information or reports that he was handling illegal agents within the United States? Did it have information that he served as a "paymaster" for an espionage network? If so, did these reports have any bearing on the security case against Oswald?
4. In CIA document 487-195a, which was released in a Freedom of Information action in 1976, it was stated by J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel to the Warren Commission, that FBI Agent James Hosty had suggested "Oswald had contacted two known subversive agents about 15 days before the assassination". Was the Dallas office aware of any contacts Oswald had with Subversive agents? Was Agent Hosty referring to Oswald's trip to Mexico? or, was he referring to contacts with personnel in the Cuban and Soviet embassies?
5. Was Oswald's letter dated "November 9" (1963) to the Soviet Embassy intercepted by the FBI? If so, was any attempt made to identify the Soviet he referred to as "Kostin"? Was his statement that he had "business" with the Soviet Embassy in Havana interpreted to mean that he was engaged in some sort of clandestine activity? Was his statement that he was travelling under a false name interpreted to mean he was engaged in clandestine activities? If so, what measures were taken to investigate these activities?
6. After the assassination, was the Soviet Embassy informed through either official or unofficial channels that the FBI had intercepted this letter?
7. In the FBI interrogation of Oswald in 1962 after his return from Russia did the FBI receive suggestions of what questions to ask from the CIA? Department of State? Office of Navy Intelligence? If so, what were the interests of these agencies?
8. Did the FBI attempt to acquire information about Oswald's activities in the Soviet Union through any means other than the two informal interrogations in June and August 1962? Were any informants requested to provide data on Oswald? If so, what were the interests of these agencies?

QUESTIONS FOR THE FBI, continued.

9. James Allen Mintkenbaugh, who admitted spying for the Soviet Union, stated that he was brought to the Soviet Union for the purposes of training in espionage techniques in September 1951 and once there was asked to marry an agent whom the Soviets wished to establish as his wife in the Washington D.C. area. Since Mintkenbaugh was in Moscow at the same time that Oswald arrived, was Mintkenbaugh asked about Oswald? Was he shown any photographs of the women Oswald knew to see if he could identify them as contacts he had known during his period in the Soviet Union? If so, did he identify any individuals?

10. Did the FBI conduct any investigation into the attempted assassination of General Edwin A. Walker on April 10, 1963? Was this done prior to the assassination of Kennedy? If so, what were the results of this investigation? Specifically, did it suggest it was the work of a single sniper or more than one person?