

# PARALLELS FOUND TO OSWALD CASE

Prisoners Who Threatened

3 Presidents Studied

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A number of Federal prisoners jailed for threatening the lives of Presidents have mental characteristics and backgrounds very similar to those of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

A psychiatrist who has studied these cases said that if Oswald had threatened President Kennedy by letter he might well have been imprisoned, as were the 10 men he studied.

Paradoxically, threatening the life of a President is a Federal offense, whereas actually killing him is not, observed the psychiatrist, Dr. David A. Rothstein of the United States Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Mo.

Most of the 10 men showed "severe rage against women" and exhibited suicidal tendencies, Dr. Rothstein wrote in the

## September Archives of General Psychiatry.

All were diagnosed as schizophrenic and more than half had been in military service and been in difficulties there. Four had, as Oswald, been bitter about military discharges and had sent threats to the President related to their grievances.

Oswald, who had been bitter over the circumstances of his military discharge, had written letters to Gov. John Connally of Texas, then Secretary of the Navy.

### Diagnosed at 13

The threats made by the 10 men ranged from threatening remarks to others, to letters and telegrams actually sent to Presidents, Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman.

Analyzing the similarities between these men and Oswald from what was known of his background, Dr. Rothstein recalled that Oswald reportedly was diagnosed as having "schizophrenic tendencies" at the age of 13.

The severe rage against women found in all the cases seemed to stem from poor maternal relationships.

In the case of Oswald, Dr. Rothstein said, his mother had reportedly been too wrapped up in her own problems to meet his emotional needs. She had also

apparently been unable to face the early psychiatric diagnosis of her son's problems and had failed to cooperate when he was offered psychiatric help.

Several of the patients, like Oswald, had joined the military service early, perhaps to meet developmental needs denied them by their families, Dr. Rothstein said. Joining the service might be expected to provide them the strong controls and a masculine figure, generally missing in their families, he said.

Also, the need to belong to some group also led to a frequent interest in Russia, Communism or Socialism, and represents a "desperate need to identify with at least any group, even a 'bad' group," Dr. Rothstein said.