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Chapter XIII

The Enduring Puzzle

Twenty years after the JFK assassination a festering reservoir of indisputable, disjointed facts have made their way into the public domain. Some of them raise the most ominous questions. Nearly all of the information was known by some officials at the time of Kennedy's death. For the most part, the leads went unpursued, primarily because they pointed away from Lee Harvey Oswald as a lone, demented assassin. It is known today, without any serious question, that in those early days President Johnson, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, FBI Director Hoover, as well as the Warren Commission all were anxious to have the matter resolved with deliberate speed. This establishment powerhouse was fueled by a multitude of motives--some of which are known while others are as elusive as ever. One motive was preeminent. The only quick settlement of the JFK assassination was for Lee Harvey Oswald to be firmly, swiftly and unanimously

adjudged the lone assassin.

At this point, two decades after the fact, it is unlikely that the full truth about the Kennedy assassination will ever be known. It is impossible, even now, to be sure how much faith or credence can be placed in any particular piece of evidence, no matter how suggestive. While the purity and integrity of certain evidence might be established, what cannot be satisfactorily known is just how that evidence fits into a larger pattern, much less how those patterns are interlocked.

The preceding chapters have included detailed examinations of those aspects of the case which possess enough discernible interlocking characteristics to fit into a cohesive pattern, even if the context of that pattern remains out of kilter. It is established, for example, that the FBI never really investigated the assassination beyond building a case against Oswald. It is known that the Warren Commission ignored leads of chilling promise and entombed thousands of tantalizing documents with the belief they were fit only to be seen by future generations. The President's autopsy, without question, was a forensic disaster of such magnitude that the integrity of that evidence is lost forever. Extremely important questions will never be resolved. It is clear that the Tippit murder was never given even a routine investigation, and that persuasive evidence that Oswald did not shoot him was ignored. It is officially established that

Jack Ruby was a creature of organized crime who clearly stalked Oswald from the day of his arrest. It is established that various Cuban elements, as well as organized crime, possessed sufficient motive and means to murder the President--and that from the earliest hours these possibilities were swept aside in favor of evidence against Oswald.

Such stark certainties are the basis for the overwhelming skepticism that is so deeply engrained in the American psyche. It is a skepticism that has swollen into a mountain of reasonable doubt. In addition to the larger patterns that create this doubt, there is a grab bag of evidence that probably is every bit as important but far more difficult to corral into a cohesive package. That grab bag is worth examining.

The Other Oswald

Of all the mysteries in the JFK case, none is greater than Lee Harvey Oswald's murky alliances and contradictory behavior. Yet, from the moment of his arrest, given the official mind-set, it was virtually inevitable that he would shoulder the complete responsibility for the crime of the century.

With a character like quick-silver, Oswald was certainly the most elusive, slippery individual imaginable to attempt to squeeze into any mold--particularly one that called for a simplicity in character and personal history. By any standard, Lee Oswald was a formidably complex young man. To turn the crew of complications to the breaking point for the authorities, strong evidence exists suggesting that at least one person was impersonating Oswald prior to the assassination. This grating note is in addition to the persuasive evidence that the real Oswald had some sort of connection to the intelligence operations of the United

States.

Over the years, no evidence has been more pointedly ignored by officials than the suggestion of a second Oswald. This hypothesis holds that in the period preceding the assassination, there was an Oswald look-alike who behaved in ways that, after Kennedy's murder, provided evidence convenient to seal the case against the real Oswald. In certain cases, examination of that very evidence suggests clearly that an impersonator was at work. Once such impersonation is accepted, the fact of conspiracy becomes absolutely established.

However, no official version has addressed the serious possibility of a second Oswald. The issue is commonly ducked with the assertion that, in a given instance, it could not have been the real Oswald, since he was known to be in a particular place, or that he could not drive a car, or that he did not own the sort of rifle the witness saw in the man's possession. This sort of analysis, of course, does not go to the issue. It pointedly overlooks the possibility of imposture.

Any consideration of the double-Oswald concept becomes immediately entangled with the even more complicated question of Oswald's possible connections with U.S. intelligence. That is an area so mired in deceit and obfuscation that examination of anything attaching to it quickly brings on blurred double images.

Peter Dale Scott, one of the most respected of the critics, points out that the genesis of the false Oswald evidence lies in what has been glimpsed of CIA records, going back to 1960. Scott points out in his concise booklet, Crime and Cover-Up, that in November of 1960, the CIA prepared what was called the American Defector List that was sent to the White House. States Scott:

"(I)n that list of fourteen names, the life history of one defector, 'Lee Henry Oswald,' had been so altered (even in a secret memo) as to make him untraceable."

That single instance could, of course, be a bureaucratic bungle, except that it was consistent--continuing in various intelligence records right up until the time of the assassination. That was not characteristic of the handling of other defectors. Such tampering with the facts has fueled the speculation that the intelligence services were seeking, long before the assassination, to obscure the emergence of any real picture of one of its own agents. It remains a mystery that probably will never be resolved, but one that must be considered as a basis for the other bizarre reports suggesting either a second Oswald or one so altered as to be rendered in double image.

In the weeks before the assassination, numerous credible witnesses were aware of a man they are certain was Lee Harvey Oswald. Those accounts were lost among the hundreds of such reported sightings that poured into the authorities

after November 22nd, most of which clearly were without merit. The prevailing technique by officials has been to lump all such reports into the crank category, overlooking numerous incidents in which the witnesses and corroborative circumstances go well beyond the criteria for reasonable credibility.

On September 25th, the day Oswald was supposed to be somewhere between New Orleans and Mexico on a bus, a person claiming to be "Harvey Oswald" presented himself at the Selective Service office in Austin, Texas. He was there for thirty minutes discussing what he might do about his dishonorable discharge from the Marine Corps. He wanted to have it amended. Two other people in Austin saw Oswald in town that day. The report was dismissed because of the official version that Oswald was on a bus headed for Mexico.

Also on that day, in Houston, a person who identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald telephoned the home of the Texas head of the Socialist Labor Party. The man was not at home, and his wife talked to the person who identified himself as Oswald.

At about that time, possibly even the same day, "Leon Oswald" showed up in Dallas with two Latins at the home of Silvia Odio, a young woman whose family was prominent in anti-Castro activities. The whole Odio visit, which is discussed in detail in earlier pages, is powerful evidence of

Oswald's connection to anti-Castro Cubans.

Soon after the strange visit, one of the Latin men telephoned Mrs. Odio and mentioned that "Leon Oswald," an ex-Marine sharpshooter, had expressed an interest in killing President Kennedy. Two months later, Mrs. Odio had to be hospitalized when she (and her sister) recognized "Leon Oswald" as the accused assassin of President Kennedy. While the Warren Commission and FBI officials considered Mrs. Odio's report as false, the House Assassinations Committee reviewed all of the evidence and found her account to be credible.

The strange events of Mexico City are treated fully in Chapter Nine. Much has been made in the official version about Lee Oswald's activities there in terms of visits to the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic facilities. However, the only CIA photograph of that "Oswald" was clearly someone else who has never been identified. The tapes of that "Oswald" speaking were "routinely destroyed" before a comparison could be made with the voice of the Oswald arrested in Dallas. (One report from FBI Director Hoover stated that FBI agents who knew Oswald's voice had listened to the tape and were convinced the voice was not that of Oswald. Later, there was an FBI denial of the validity of the Hoover message about the tapes.)

Out of all this confusion arises the strong possibility that while the real Oswald no doubt was in Mexico City, the

person who presented himself at the Cuban Consulate and at the Soviet Embassy was someone else bearing the real Oswald's papers and passport. Of all the evidence of imposture, this certainly is the most significant. It suggests an ominous and purposeful control of the man who was soon to be blamed for assassinating the President.

Other evidence was, perhaps, less significant but every bit as important in trying to stitch together a pattern of activity for an impostor.

Six weeks before the assassination, Mrs. Lovell Penn heard the blasts from a high-powered rifle being fired out in her cow pasture. A retired school teacher, Mrs. Penn lived about fifteen miles south of Dallas. She confronted three men, one of whom had the rifle, and stated that she was afraid they might shoot one of her cows. One of the men, whom she identified as Lee Oswald, became angry. Mrs. Penn threatened to call the police, and the men left. One of the men with Oswald appeared to be a Latin, according to Mrs. Penn.

After the assassination, when Mrs. Penn recognized Oswald, she turned over a cartridge casing she had picked up in her pasture that had been ejected from the rifle the men were firing. An FBI examination showed that the cartridge casing was for a 6.5 caliber Mannlicher-Carcano. The examination also showed the casing could not have been fired from Oswald's rifle. That finding marked the end of any

official interest in Mrs. Penn's report.

In early November, a young man showed up at a gun shop in the Dallas suburbs where Oswald's family was staying. The man wanted to have holes drilled in a rifle. The work order later showed that the man had given the name Oswald. However, the customer had requested that three holes be drilled in his rifle. Since the Oswald rifle had only two holes drilled in it, the report was discounted by investigators. However, the FBI asked every Oswald it could locate in the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area whether a rifle had been taken to the gunshop to have holes drilled. Each one was ruled out as the "Oswald" whose name appears on the work order.

Numerous reliable witnesses reported several corroborated instances in November of seeing Oswald target shooting at a firing range with a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. Indeed, this man called attention to himself by requesting assistance from a stranger to help him adjust the scope on his rifle. All of the witnesses reported the man was an excellent marksman. He was particularly well remembered because he angered others by cross-shooting--firing out of his prescribed lane and hitting the targets of others, abominable and highly unusual etiquette on a shooting range. Such behavior would be vividly recalled.

The Warren Commission, which must have been sorely tempted to use such testimony as evidence that Oswald was a good marksman, dismissed the numerous credible reports. The

Commission cited its findings that it could not have been Oswald because he was known to be elsewhere.

Certainly one of the most vivid recollections of an out-of-place Oswald occurred on November 9th. Introducing himself as "Lee Oswald," the young man, who looked like the real Oswald, walked into an automobile dealership in downtown Dallas, a few blocks from Dealey Plaza. He asked to try out a car. A salesman went for a drive with "Oswald," who created an indelible impression in the salesman's mind by racing along the city streets at speeds up to seventy miles an hour.

Back at the showroom, numerous witnesses observed "Oswald" as he became angry when questioned about his financial ability to pay for a car. He claimed he expected to come into a large amount of money very soon. When this did not impress the manager, Oswald loudly stated that he would go back to Russia if he needed to buy a car. There were several completely reliable, corroborating witnesses to the incident. The matter was officially discounted on the grounds that Oswald could not drive a car and that, in any case, he was known not to be in Dallas that day.

This aspect of possible imposture is enhanced by evidence that a Texas driver's license may have been issued to a Lee Harvey Oswald. There are credible reports from individuals at the Texas Department of Public Safety that such a license was seen in the files, although there is no

official certification of this.

Another convincing report in this category comes from Ed Brand, a Dallas businessman who was selling automobile insurance in 1963. Brand told the author that his insurance business was located across the street from Oswald's rooming house. In the early part of November, a young man Brand had noticed on several occasions at the bus stop across the street came into his office to inquire about insurance for a car he was considering buying. Brand asked the man for his driving license in order to use the vital data to calculate the cost of the insurance. The name on the license, Brand says, was O.H. Lee. The young man said he planned to buy the car in the next couple of weeks and that he would pay cash for it. Oswald, who was living across the street under the name of O.H. Lee, never returned. After the assassination, Brand called the telephone number printed in the newspapers for people with information. He was never contacted, although there is an FBI report which appears to contain Brand's information.

Certainly one of the most intriguing reported sightings of Oswald comes from a U.S. Customs officer working in Montreal. Soon after the assassination, Investigator Jean Paul Tremblay reported to the Secret Service that he had seen Lee Harvey Oswald handing out Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets on a Montreal street in August of 1963. Tremblay, who was working on cases involving Cuba at that time, took one of the hand-

bills from the man he believes was Oswald. Two men and a woman were with Oswald at the time, according to Tremblay.

The FBI investigated Tremblay's report and concluded that it was in error, in view of the incontrovertible fact that Oswald was in New Orleans at the time. Additional FBI documents on the matter were released in 1975 and 1978, both containing large areas of deletions--omissions that seem odd if the FBI is so certain the Tremblay report deserves no credence.

This whole mystery is heightened by the fact that photographs were taken of the person Tremblay believes was Oswald. As late as 1983, the FBI was still firm in its refusal to release the photographs sought through lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act. If the photograph shows a man clearly not Oswald, it would support the government's point. On the other hand, a picture of the real Oswald--or a man who looked very much like him--in company with the pro-Castro leafleteers would raise the sorts of questions the government has sought to quash.

Some of the strongest evidence of an Oswald imposter is found in official FBI records. It was none other than J. Edgar Hoover who raised the first alarm in June of 1960, while Oswald was in the Soviet Union. In a memorandum to the State Department, Hoover wrote:

"Since there is the possibility that an imposter is using Oswald's birth certificate, any current information

the Department of State might have concerning subject will be appreciated." Nine months later, another FBI memorandum seems to hark to Hoover's alert to the State Department when it refers to the report "that there is an imposter using Oswald's identification data...."

What this means is as ambiguous as anything else in the puzzle. However, it clearly shows an interest in Oswald and/or an interest in an imposter pretending to be Oswald. Hoover's memorandum was written more than three years before Oswald was vaulted to infamy.

Six months after the Hoover memorandum, in January of 1961, with Oswald still in the Soviet Union, two men opened negotiations with a Ford dealership in New Orleans for the purchase of ten trucks. The pair--one of them a Cuban, the other an American--told the manager they represented a group called Friends for a Democratic Cuba. The manager of the Ford dealership noted that the men informed him that the purchase order should be in the name of Oswald, since Oswald would be in charge of picking up the trucks and paying for them. The manager also noted the name of Oswald's group on the order form: "Friends for a Democratic Cuba." That, of course, was the group sponsored by FBI contact Guy Banister and his investigator, David W. Ferrie.*

*(FN: An even more puzzling incident occurred in early 1963 in New Orleans, prior to the established date of Oswald's arrival in that city. An inspector for the Immigration

and Naturalization Service (INS), Ronald L. Smith, disclosed to the Senate Intelligence Committee that he interviewed a man he is certain was Oswald who was claiming to be a Cuban. At that time, the real Oswald was still in Dallas. In keeping with INS procedures, once Smith determined that "Oswald" was not a Cuban, no report was filed and the matter was dropped.)

Such imposture can be interpreted in many ways and can lead in several directions. The basic significance is that certain anti-Castro Cubans, nearly three years before the JFK assassination, had reason to use the name Oswald in connection with the Banister/FBI-linked exile group, Friends for a Democratic Cuba.

This evidence is highly suggestive of the existence of an on-going manipulation of Oswald's name and reputation. (It is separate from the evidence showing that Oswald himself was manipulated.) Toward what end remains speculative.

In any accounting of these possibilities, one cannot overlook two of the most persuasive of all second Oswald sightings. They happened about fifteen minutes after the assassination, well after the official version insists that Lee Harvey Oswald left Dealey Plaza. One witness saw a man he was sure was Oswald run out of the back of the Texas School Book Depository. Moments later, independent of that report, in the front of the Book Depository, a highly respected police officer saw a man come running toward the street from the building and get into a car driven by a man

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of Latin appearance. They drove away. Later that afternoon, the policeman swore that the man he had seen running from the Book Depository and jumping into the car was now in custody--Lee Harvey Oswald.

Thomas Eli Davis, III

Once the possibility of a second Oswald is permitted, the potential avenues for conspiracy run in many directions. One writer has postulated the whole case on the presumption that actually Jack Ruby murdered Oswald--but not in plain view of the world in 1963. Rather, the execution was carried off quietly and efficiently in New Orleans in 1959 during a brief overlap of New Orleans visits by Oswald and Ruby. Thus, the Oswald who departed for the Soviet Union was even then an imposter--an imposter whose training was continued by the Soviets who later sent him to murder President Kennedy and then he murdered himself by Jack Ruby. Nonsense such as this provokes almost universal scorn over the prospect of a second Oswald. But such scorn, when applied sweepingly, is misdirected.

As demonstrated in earlier pages, the evidence of a second Oswald is inescapable. Because of the official refusal even to consider the possibility, researchers have had to piece together the evidence not from the results of

positive investigation, but from the rubble heap of unpursued leads--possibilities cast off by a government determined to find a different answer. It is not surprising that the emerging picture is clouded by shadows of contradiction, yielding only the faintest pattern of the manner of possible imposture.

If anything makes sense, it is more likely that the imposture was not a highly tuned part of a grand conspiracy--but that it was a function of convenience, carried out at different times, by different people, for different specific reasons. Whatever prompted the FBI to be concerned that someone might be using Oswald's identification papers in 1960 was not necessarily the same set of circumstances that lead to the reports of Oswald's activities around Dallas in the fall of 1963--activities ruled out as impossible by official investigators. On the other hand, such a connection is possible, even if mightily difficult to fathom.

Of all the conjecture and speculation about a second Oswald, the activities of one man more than any other make him appear to be the most logical candidate as an imposter. His activities qualify him in at least some of the known instances where the "Oswald" in question could not have been the one accused of assassinating the President. The accumulation of the slender threads of evidence is largely the work of Seth Kantor, the acknowledged expert on Jack Ruby, and J. Gary Shaw, one of the most tireless of the investi-

gators and critics of the JFK case. Both Shaw and Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., another prominent assassination investigator, believe that this man is the most likely candidate as one of the second Oswalds.

Thomas Eli Davis, III, was born in Jacksboro, Texas, on August 27, 1936. He came from a respectable family and was an easy-talking young man fond of pretty women and good living. He served in the United States Army. Numerous people who knew him say he had a brilliant mind. There were, however, flaws. In 1958, at the age of 21, Davis was convicted for attempted bank robbery in Detroit and placed on probation for five years. He was returned to Texas where he remained on general probationary supervision until early 1962. During those four years, he could have been almost anywhere in the Southeastern United States.

In January of 1963, Davis was in New Orleans where he applied for a passport. Always on the move, according to the women in his life, he headed for California. There, in May of 1963, he placed an advertisement in a Los Angeles newspaper seeking to recruit mercenaries to invade Haiti and overthrow President Duvalier. When the FBI investigated this, Davis claimed he was a freelance writer trying to glean information for an article on soldier-of-fortune activities.

Later that year, according to a State Department telegram, Davis was arrested in Tangiers for trying to sell guns. At that time, Davis' wife told the consulate general

in Tangiers that her husband had worked as a soldier of fortune in Indo-China, Indonesia, Algeria and Cuba. Just prior to Davis' arrest, she said, they had travelled through London, Paris and Madrid.

This biographical information comes largely from the official files of the FBI and the State Department. These are but the bare bones of the short, messy life of Thomas Eli Davis, III. With his fluent Spanish, Davis was deeply involved in anti-Castro Cuban exile activities, including gun-running operations. Davis also can be convincingly linked to Jack Ruby as a night club patron as well as a participant in Ruby's own gun-running activities. Davis' most ominous connection is to one of the CIA's known professional assassins--a man code-named QJ/WIN who operated under the auspices of the Agency's ZR/RIFLE assassination program.

What is of particular interest is that Davis clearly possessed a resemblance to Lee Harvey Oswald--in general stature, coloration and physiognomy. The two would not be mistaken for one another under close examination, but the general similarities were there--especially for people who later tried to recall someone by studying photographs. Long before there was any attention given to the possibility of a second Oswald, Davis admitted to having used the name Oswald in connection with his activities with Cuban exiles. Those activities clearly are worth a closer look.

In 1963, as Jack Ruby wrestled with his lawyers over the best defense strategy on the Oswald murder charge, he was asked if there were any names that might come up that could cause trouble to his defense. Ruby told his lawyers about his gun-running activities with Davis, adding that he hoped to go back into that business with Davis if he could beat the rap for murdering Oswald. (Ruby's first contact with Tommy Davis was even more tawdry. Davis approached Ruby about making a pornographic movie using some of Ruby's dancing girls.) Both Davis and Ruby had been involved in gun-running with Robert Ray McKeown, who was prominently identified as a supplier of munitions to Castro --before and after the revolution. One of the confirming points of this association was that it occurred during the time that Tommy Davis was on probation and working around Beaumont, Texas, where McKeown had his arms headquarters. While McKeown has told the FBI that he recalls that Ruby was associated with someone called Davis, he claims he does not remember that man's first name.

According to Seth Kantor, this was a period when Tommy Davis had become involved with anti-Castro Cubans--a point confirmed by members of Davis' family. Kantor writes that Davis "carried out his work with the skill of an underwater commando. He was a professional deep-sea diver who operated on the Gulf of Mexico. He had become involved in training anti-Castro units at a hidden encampment in Florida and at

another site in South America...."

Kantor, a well respected Washington journalist, asserts that his own confidential sources have convinced him that during this period Davis was working with the CIA. It is now established that during this identical period, Jack Ruby had become an official contact for the FBI. (See Chapter Eight for a full examination of Ruby's activities.)

Davis was busy in 1963 with his mercenary activities. Family members, including a wife of that period, confirm that he maintained his frequent contacts with the anti-Castro Cubans. Official records establish that during 1963, Davis was in California, Texas and Louisiana. There are several possibilities during this period when Davis may have been posing as Oswald.

Perhaps the most intriguing possibility for imposture occurred toward the end of September when the three men--two Latins and "Leon Oswald"--showed up at the home of Silvia Odio in Dallas, an incident examined elsewhere in these pages. Mrs. Odio's description of "Leon Oswald" almost perfectly matches the real Oswald, except for one difference that--despite the official acceptance today of the Odio account--has never been reconciled. She stated that "Leon Oswald" had a faint brown moustache. That, it turns out, was a prime difference between Davis and Oswald: Davis did have such a moustache, according to an FBI report describing Davis' appearance during an investigation three months

earlier.

A few days after the Odio incident, during the bizarre events of Mexico City involving Oswald, another intriguing similarity to Davis emerges. The person who appeared at the Cuban consulate with Oswald's papers was described by one witness as speaking Spanish fluently. At the Soviet Embassy, that person was described as speaking Russian poorly. Lee Oswald, of course, spoke excellent Russian but almost no Spanish. Thomas Eli Davis was fluent in Spanish.

Another intriguing parallel emerged in 1983 with the discovery of old guest ledgers from the Hotel LaSalle in New Orleans. On August 8, 1963, "T. E. Davis" registered as a guest at the hotel. He checked out August 10th. Lee Oswald was arrested in New Orleans on August 9th for engaging in the street scuffle over his pro-Castro demonstration. It is not known whether Tommy Davis was in New Orleans at that time.

On November 2, 1963, Davis and his wife left the United States. After traveling to London, Paris and Madrid, they arrived in Tangiers on November 28th. Ten days later, Davis was arrested in Morocco for trying to sell guns. What concerned Moroccan officials more than the gun-dealing was a letter they discovered on Davis, in his handwriting, dealing with "Oswald" and the assassination. The letter was addressed to a lawyer in New York called Thomas G. Proctor, who has never been traced. In the letter, according to an official

paraphrasing, Davis suggests that Proctor should donate money to newly-succeeded President Lyndon Johnson for his campaign, a reference so odd that it suggests the possibility of a coded message.

In a State Department telegram about the matter, the document was described as a "...rambling, somewhat cryptic, unsigned letter in Davis' handwriting which refers in passing to 'Oswald' and to Kennedy assassination." The actual letter is not in the public record.

In these exotic travels, where was Thomas Eli Davis, III, on November 22, 1963?

His wife of that period has made the general statement that she was never sure of Davis' whereabouts--that Davis was difficult to keep up with. For part of their travels they stayed in Madrid with friends of hers. Seth Kantor, however, writes that his intelligence sources insist that Tommy Davis was arrested in Algiers on November 22nd for gun-dealing with anti-Algerian terrorists. According to Kantor, who reiterated his assertions to the author in 1984, Tommy Davis was released almost immediately from the Algerian prison through the efforts of the CIA assassination figure code-named QJ/WIN. That sensational report cannot be confirmed beyond Kantor's assertion that he has full confidence in the credibility of his intelligence source. The arrest itself, however, has other support.

A year after the assassination, Tommy Davis was in-

interviewed by veteran Dallas newspaperman George W. Carter, who had covered the JFK assassination. Carter enjoyed a reputation as an excellent reporter. Years prior to Kantor's published account, Davis told Carter that he was in Algiers on the day of the assassination and that he was arrested. Davis also told Carter that while in Algeria, he was using the name "Oswald." According to Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Davis stated that he also had used the name Oswald in his anti-Castro activities during the period of 1959-62, while the real Oswald was in the Soviet Union.

Davis stated to Carter that he was worried that someone might try to link him to the assassination because of these connections. He told Carter that his passport had been cancelled but that he was leaving the country anyway.

Carter had first heard about Tommy Davis from one of Jack Ruby's lawyers, Tom Howard, who evidently remained intrigued by the Ruby-Davis connection that went unexamined by the Warren Commission. Carter's interview with Tommy Davis, whom he described as having "a tremendous mind," came about after Carter started asking questions among people in the town where Davis lived. Carter believed that Davis talked to him in an effort to find out how much was known about his Algerian activities--and whether there was any evidence of official interest. There was, of course, no official interest at all. George Carter, who has since died, never wrote about Davis. However, he did share the details

of his interview with fellow Dallas reporter Earl Golz, who made them available to researchers several years later.

The Warren Commission pointedly ignored all of the Ruby-Davis leads, despite the urgings by two staff members who pressed to have Ruby questioned about the matter. In 1978, the House Select Committee on Assassinations considered the Ruby-Davis-Oswald connection and reviewed the evidence at hand. The Committee then arrived at a statement that was all too familiar:

"Due to the limitations of time and resources, the committee did not thoroughly investigate Ruby's possible connection with Davis. It did not interview his wife or other relatives, nor did it determine exactly what Davis said about the assassination."

The mystery of Thomas Eli Davis, III, will probably never be resolved. His third and last wife, whom he married after the events surrounding the assassination, has said that Davis once told her that he knew who killed President Kennedy. Whatever Davis knew, he took it with him when he died in 1973 at a remote rock quarry in Wise County, Texas. He was 37. Officials, who conducted no autopsy, said that Davis was electrocuted when he cut into a power line while trying to steal copper wiring from the quarry.

The only hope for resolution of the Tommy Davis question lies in the government files. It is not known what files the CIA has on Davis. The FBI still has documents--more than two

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hundred pages at the least--that cannot be released for reasons of national security. As for State Department files, they are officially reported as "lost." The only other hope might be the military intelligence file on Thomas Eli Davis, III. However, in 1980, the Army stated that his file had been routinely destroyed.

Oswald's Finances

Parsimoniousness was one of the most consistent characteristics of Lee Oswald's personality. He never had much money, and he scrupulously accounted for every cent that came his way, or that he spent. Because of this fact, a great deal of attention has been given by investigators and researchers to the examination of his finances. The aim has been to discover some source of funds that could not be explained--evidence that would suggest Oswald's connection to someone not supposed to be in the picture. At times around the period of Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union and his return, it can be demonstrated that he had extra money that has never been explained. Then, in late 1962 when he owed the State Department a balance of \$396 on a repatriation loan, Oswald paid it off during a brief period when it is known that he earned only \$490. At the same time, from somewhere, he had sufficient funds to supposedly buy his two weapons.

Where did this extra money come from?

Any examination of Oswald's finances over the years has been complicated by the government's refusal to release Oswald's 1962 tax return. At one point, the issue of privacy was raised to keep the return under wraps. This was particularly ludicrous when even one of Oswald's pubic hairs is in the record and available for inspection by the public. This secretiveness is in blazing contrast with the fact the government readily released seven years of Jack Ruby's tax returns, even while Ruby was still alive.

Researchers have long believed that Oswald's 1962 tax return would contain information revealing sources of income that are incompatible with the official version of events. There was no other conceivable reason for such compulsive secrecy about what should be so simple an issue.

As late as 1983, the National Archives continued to honor the seal placed on the release of Oswald's 1962 tax return. However, in 1982, Oswald's widow, who had signed the joint return, asked the Internal Revenue Service for a copy. She was informed that such returns are only kept for seven years, that it had been routinely destroyed. She replied that the IRS could obtain a copy from the National Archives. Some weeks later, Oswald's widow received the 1962 tax return. While she has not released it to the public, she did give a copy to Mary Ferrell, the indefatigable Dallas researcher.

The most startling aspect of the return is that, on its surface, it appears to give complete support to the proposition that Oswald had no odd sources of income. The return appears to be in Oswald's handwriting, although the copy is barely legible. The amounts of income from his jobs are generally correct, showing his annual earnings at a little more than \$1,350. Why the Warren Commission and subsequent officials have been so fussy about disclosure of the return remains unfathomable.

There was but one oddity, which was plucked out by Mary Ferrell. Under the 1962 tax laws, Oswald, considering his dependents, should not have had to pay any income tax so long as his total earnings were under \$2,000. Oswald should have been returned all of the money withheld from him in his jobs that year. On this point, there is a discrepancy.

Oswald did not note on his return the taxes withheld by one of his two employers, Leslie Welding Company. He thus missed out on about \$40 in refunds to which he was entitled. There is no explanation for this highly uncharacteristic incident, which is somewhat enhanced by a note Oswald sent along with his return. He wrote to the IRS:

"I believe if you check your records to substantiate these figures you will find that I should get a substantial refund...."

What all this means, beyond the obvious, remains a mystery.

Early Warnings

During the early hours of November 24th, police and FBI officials in Dallas received identical warnings that suspected assassin Lee Harvey Oswald would be murdered as he was transferred to the county jail. The person who made the call stated that he was doing so with the hope there would be no gun battle in which innocent police officers could be injured or killed. The FBI took the warning seriously. When Dallas police refused to do so, the FBI decided to have nothing to do with the transfer. The Dallas police, convinced the warning was from a crank, went ahead. Right on target, Oswald was shot to death during the transfer. There was something eerily routine about the whole business, the manner of the warning as well as the execution. It is impossible to say if this is just another coincidence, but it becomes far more interesting in light of the strong official findings in recent years that Jack Ruby, Oswald's executioner, was a mob creature probably acting under orders.

This warning of Oswald's execution--combined with what

is known of Ruby--can be viewed as evidence of a conspiracy to silence him. If firm evidence could be found of early warnings of President Kennedy's assassination, that would be yet another area highly suggestive of conspiracy.

On November 9, 1963, in Miami, a wealthy right-wing extremist named Joseph A. Milteer informed a "friend" that the assassination of JFK was in the works. Milteer explained that Kennedy would be killed "from an office building with a high-powered rifle." He stated that "within hours afterward... they will pick up somebody...just to throw the public off."

As for when such an assassination would take place, Milteer stated:

"It's in the works....There ain't any countdown to it. We have just got to be sitting on go. Countdown, they can move in on you, and on go they can't. Countdown is all right for a slow, prepared operation. But in an emergency operation, you have got to be sitting on go."

Milteer's "friend" was actually a police informant wired for sound. The chilling comments from Milteer were immediately turned over by the Miami police to the FBI, which gave them to the Secret Service. There was a flurry of inquiries. The case was closed a few days later. The information was not relayed to the Secret Service agents in charge of the President's Dallas trip. However, when the President visited Miami a week after Milteer's statements,

on November 18th, his motorcade was cancelled and he was transported by helicopter from the airfield to the site of his address. No official reason was ever given for this last-minute switch in plans.

On November 22nd, Milteer telephoned his "friend," the informant, and told him he was in Dallas.* *FN(Years later, the Assassinations Committee was not able to confirm that Milteer actually was in Dallas.) It was prior to the midday events when Milteer told the informant that Kennedy was expected in Dallas that day and that the President probably would never again visit Miami.

Back in Florida the next day, Milteer again spoke to the informant. "Everything ran true to form," Milteer said. "I guess you thought I was kidding when I said he would be killed from a window with a high-powered rifle." As for the arrest of a suspect, Milteer told the informant not "to worry about Lee Harvey Oswald getting caught because he doesn't know anything."

On November 27th, FBI agents asked Milteer about all of these statements. He denied he had made any threats against the President. The matter was dropped. In the closing days of the Warren Commission, the FBI passed on the documents about Milteer. The matter is ignored in the Warren Report and its twenty-six volumes of published evidence. Milteer died a few years later.

*(The story finally began to trickle out in 1967 in a

Miami newspaper.

Many other reports have been interpreted as early warnings, but none is quite as pointed as the Milteer matter.

One of the most haunting incidents, given this interpretation, concerns a prostitute called Rose Cheramie. Her life as a drug addict and an alcoholic would certainly render anything she said as highly suspect, except for what happened to her on the night of November 20, 1963. She was found by state police lying beside a highway near Eunice, Louisiana. Battered and bleeding, Miss Cheramie stated that she had been thrown from a moving car occupied by two Latin men on their way from Texas. She was taken to a hospital.

On the way, Miss Cheramie reported to the police officer that the two men who had thrown her from the car had been discussing a plot to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas. Because of her condition, no attention was paid to what she said about a pending assassination. A few days later, after President Kennedy was killed, the police lieutenant who first heard Miss Cheramie's story notified Dallas police about it. The police in Dallas were not interested, explaining that Oswald was in custody and already considered to be the lone gunman. Miss Cheramie's story became much more elaborate following the events in Dallas--involving associations with Ruby and Oswald--but it is her pre-assassination statements that are significant.

There has been much speculation about the identity of the Latin men Miss Cheramie overheard discussing the plot. However, there has never been any concrete resolution of the matter. The FBI has shown no interest. Miss Cheramie was killed two years later when she was run over while lying in the road near Big Sandy, Texas. The driver did not stop and has never been found.

In Metz, France, PFC. Eugene B. Dinkin worked as a code clerk for a National Security Agency (NSA) installation set up to monitor foreign radio transmissions. Dinkin, 25, was responsible for deciphering material intercepted at the NSA facility. Little is known about this French NSA facility, since the activities of the NSA remain even more highly secret than those of the CIA.

One morning in early November of 1963, Dinkin ran from his station into an adjoining office and shouted that President Kennedy was going to be killed in Dallas. Dinkin had been working on messages which originated with the French terrorist group OAS, some of which were messages monitoring OAS activities. Dinkin's fellow workers paid no attention to his assertion that he had learned that President Kennedy would be killed in Dallas.

But Dinkin felt strongly enough about what he had heard that he went AWOL and reported to the U.S. Consulate at Bern, Switzerland. There, he repeated his story. When little interest was shown, he tried to interest journalists

at the offices of Time-Life in Zurich. He was ignored.

Viewed as a lunatic, Dinkin was arrested and returned to the United States where he was held in a psychiatric ward in Washington. He was discharged from the Army a few months later.

Did PFC Dinkin decipher a transmission pertaining to a threat against Kennedy on his trip to Dallas? There is no evidence in the public records that the possibility was ever investigated.

(One-line Space)

In each of these cases--and there are others--there is nothing absolutely conclusive about the early warning. Each could be coincidence. But one must always return to this: Police in any city in the United States, receiving a tip that a bank would be robbed under particular circumstances, would act on that tip. Why such indifference to tips about the death of a President? Or, in the case of Rose Cheramie, why was there so subsequent investigation to find out the identities of the men she overheard?

Those are questions that, in this particular case, will probably never be answered.

The French Connection

In early 1977, Mary Ferrell, the renowned Dallas archivist of assassination material, was making her way through a new carton of documents forced from the Central Intelligence Agency by a suit brought under the Freedom of Information Act. Thousands of pages faced her, many of them so apparently illegible that a casual observer would consider them hopeless to decipher. In addition to the acutely poor copies, many of the documents were so heavily obliterated with deletions that the few remaining words made little sense. In her twenty years of work on the JFK case, Mrs. Ferrell has never discarded a single document. On this occasion she was using her bright lights and huge magnifying glass as she pored over the papers. With these tools she could illuminate the passages. With her tiny ruler she measured the spaces in blacked-out areas, counting spaces, working toward filling in deleted words.

One of the hundreds of pages she studied that afternoon was CIA Document 632-796. The page was blanked out, except for a single paragraph. "It looked like a Xerox of a Xerox

of a Xerox of a faint carbon copy," Mrs. Ferrell declares. "It was possibly the worst document I've ever seen in terms of legibility." As she began to make out the words, Mrs. Ferrell sensed nothing extraordinary about the document. It appeared to be a simple request from the French government to the U.S. Government inquiring about the whereabouts of an individual. Mrs. Ferrell perked up as she coaxed the words from the page.

The document, dated April 1, 1964, reported that the French intelligence service wanted help in locating one Jean Souetre, a French OAS terrorist believed to be a threat to the safety of French President Charles de Gaulle. The document noted that de Gaulle planned to visit Mexico the following month. The French had approached the FBI's legal attache in Paris to ascertain, from U.S. authorities, the last known whereabouts of Souetre, in order to insure the safety of de Gaulle. Subsequent investigation would show that Souetre had been a prime suspect in earlier assassination attempts on de Gaulle.

But why should the French believe that U.S. intelligence would know the whereabouts of Souetre? The answer to that question is absolutely astounding.

The document revealed that Jean Souetre was in Fort Worth, Texas, on the morning of November 22, 1963. President Kennedy also was in Fort Worth that morning, where he made his first speech of the day in a parking lot outside his

hotel. By early afternoon, John F. Kennedy was in Dallas where, at 12:30 p.m., he was assassinated. Also in Dallas that afternoon was Jean Souetre.

Within 48 hours of Kennedy's death, according to the query from the French, Jean Souetre was picked up by U. S. authorities in Texas. He was immediately expelled from the United States. French intelligence wanted to ascertain whether he was expelled to Canada or to Mexico. The French also wanted to know where the United States authorities had last seen Souetre. The simple purpose was to insure the safety of President de Gaulle on his pending trip to Mexico.

One would expect that the U.S. officials who picked up Souetre in Dallas following the assassination might have an interest in a man of his reputation. A court document later described Souetre as "a trained and experienced terrorist, perfectly capable of murder." Evidently there was considerable interest by officials, but it was carefully concealed from the Warren Commission and, of course, from the public. There is no reason to believe the matter would ever have come to light were it not for the routine query from French intelligence. It seems highly unlikely that the CIA officer charged with deciding the release of secret papers in 1976 had even an inkling of the revelations contained in this particular document. The contents quite possibly would have never been known if the document had not fallen under the sharp eyes of

Mary Ferrell.

The precise manner of U.S. response to the presence of a French assassin in Dallas on November 22nd is officially unknown. The CIA document asserts that the FBI told the CIA that it had nothing in its files on the subject. The accuracy of that assertion seems questionable. Some of the facts have been pieced together by Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., and J. Gary Shaw, who have been in hot pursuit of the French connection since the discovery of the document. Among their findings is that Souetre had developed contacts with radical right-wing fanatics in Dallas and New Orleans and that he was in touch with the anti-Castro Cubans in this country.

The original document asserted that Jean Souetre also used the names Michal Roux and Michal Mertz. These were not ordinary aliases for, as it soon became clear, Roux and Mertz were themselves individuals quite separate from Souetre--and every bit as sinister in their own connections.

As researchers puzzled over which of the three might be the real man who was in the Dallas area on November 22nd, another wild card was shuffled into the game. It turned out that the real Michael Roux had been in Fort Worth visiting social acquaintances on November 22, 1963. The subsequent release of documents has shown that the FBI did know Roux was visiting Fort Worth, looked into it and dismissed its significance. Records show that Roux entered the United States at New York on November 19, 1963, and departed this

country on December 6, 1963, at Laredo, Texas, on the Mexican border. Since Roux clearly was not expelled, this seemed to rule him out, at least in terms of being the Souetre mentioned in the CIA document.

Nothing official is known about why U.S. authorities were prompted to pick up Jean Souetre following the assassination. It is known, however, that at least two inspectors for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) were given urgent orders to pick up specific foreign nationals in Dallas in the immediate aftermath of the assassination. INS Inspector Virgil Bailey, responding to a request of top priority, picked up a Frenchman in Dallas whose name he does not remember. Another INS inspector, Hal Norwood, received two urgent telephone calls from Washington ordering him to pick up a foreigner. Before Norwood could respond, he learned that the foreigner in question was already in the hands of police. Norwood does not remember the man's name. No files on this matter ever reached the public or the Warren Commission. It has been pieced together by private researchers.

In a brief filed in connection with a Freedom of Information Act suit for documents in this matter, Fensterwald and Gary Shaw point to the reasons why French OAS terrorists would be logical suspects in the assassination of President Kennedy:

"...(T)he Algerian civil war...ended in 1962 when

President de Gaulle granted independence to Algeria. This independence had been granted over the most violent opposition of the OAS, which consisted in large measure of French military deserters...who were violently opposed to de Gaulle's "giving away Algeria." The OAS were trained in all sorts of mayhem and killed thousands of French and Moslem Algerians. They made more than thirty attempts on the life of de Gaulle. ...As they were persona non grata in France, they settled primarily in Spain, Portugal, Italy and South America. These were 2,000 - 3,000 well-trained and available-for-hire killers. In 1963, they were the pool from which one would hire a competent assassin."

From his earliest days as a United States Senator, John F. Kennedy was publicly and passionately in favor of Algerian independence. Kennedy was vocal in his opposition to all OAS activities, and there was even a belief that Kennedy had been influential in de Gaulle's change of course from keeping French Algeria to granting its independence.

Next to de Gaulle, the legal brief asserts, the OAS hated Kennedy the most.

Clearly, the OAS--like various other groups--possessed the classic ingredients necessary for murder. If thirty attempts could be made against de Gaulle, the argument goes, why not one against Kennedy?

The point is that Jean Souetre, or someone using his name, was in Fort Worth and Dallas at the times when Kennedy

was in those cities on the day of the assassination. Michel Roux, another man with OAS training, was paying a social visit on the fateful day, _____ miles from Dallas in Fort Worth. Indications are that the United States picked up the man believed to be Souetre in Dallas that day and kicked him out of the country. Officially, no government agency has yet admitted to having dealt with Souetre on the given day. The FBI, however, does say that it interviewed Roux's hosts soon after that and became confidant of Roux's innocence.

There was one additional clue in the original CIA document: A reference to possible contact between Souetre and "a dentist named Alderson" in Houston, Texas. When researcher Gary Shaw tracked down Alderson, the story he heard was quite different from the official version--that the FBI knew nothing of the Souetre matter until the French query of April 1, 1964.

Dr. Lawrence Alderson, a respected dentist and long-time resident of Houston, insists that the FBI began tailing him immediately after the assassination and followed him incessantly for several weeks. Finally, the agents approached him for an interview. The subject was his relationship with Jean Souetre. Dr. Alderson is certain this took place no later than the end of December, and he cooperated fully.

As a captain in the U. S. Army, Dr. Alderson was stationed in France in 1953. He met Jean Souetre, then a captain in the French Air Force. Dr. Alderson recalls Souetre as a

military and political activist of the neo-Nazi persuasion, radically opposed to the giving-up of Algeria. Dr. Alderson found Souetre to be an interesting, engaging man. They became friends. They did not see each other again after Alderson left France. For the next ten years they corresponded around Christmastime.

Dr. Alderson insists that he told all of this to the FBI, making clear that he had never seen Souetre in the United States. Dr. Alderson also asserts that the FBI agents told him that the Bureau "had traced Souetre to Dallas a day before the assassination and then they lost him." Alderson adds: "The FBI felt Souetre had either killed JFK or knew who had done it." He also recalls that an agent told him the Bureau was trying to find out who had Souetre picked up that day and flown out of Dallas. The impression of the agent was that orders had come from Washington.

The FBI says it never contacted Alderson until after the receipt of the query from the French. There is no certain way to know who is telling the truth, but Dr. Alderson's position is surely persuasive given his good reputation and the fact he has no conceivable motive for dissembling.

Jean Souetre today is the director of an elegant gambling casino in France, reportedly operated by the Mafia. In 1983, Souetre denied to a reporter that he was in Dallas in 1963 or that he had any special knowledge of JFK's death. He

also denied that he knew Dr. Alderson. Though Dr. Alderson has not retained his correspondence with Souetre, he did produce a snapshot that he took of Souetre when they were together in France.

Souetre, however, had one tip for the reporter. He suggested that a man he had not seen in many years, Michael Mertz, may have been using his name, that they were old enemies. Souetre claimed to have been informed that Mertz on occasion did use Souetre's name.

This, of course, turned things quite upside down. Could it be that, really, Michael Mertz was the man expelled from Dallas and that he was using Souetre's name? In such a quagmire, it would not be surprising for French intelligence to have confused just who was using whose name that day.

Michael Mertz was different from the other two possibilities--Souetre and Roux. Mertz had long-time connections with French intelligence, working once as an infiltrator into the OAS. This connection sealed his enmity with the likes of Roux and Souetre. Mertz is even credited with once saving the life of President de Gaulle in an OAS terrorist attack. In later years, he became involved in international narcotics dealing. In fact, Mertz is a legend of sorts in the black world of espionage and narcotics smuggling. There is persuasive speculation that Mertz could have had a connection with the CIA in some of its more nefarious activities.

Which or how many of these three Frenchmen were in the Dallas area on November 22nd is not nearly as important as the fact that U.S. authorities knew at least one was there and concealed the information from the Presidential Commission investigating the assassination. One of the few certainties supported by documents is that both the CIA and the FBI were aware of the French presence long before the Warren Commission wrapped up its work.

Even more startling to contemplate is that someone, representing some authority in Washington, apparently authorized the pick-up and deportation of a known French terrorist on the day of the assassination. Those agencies that could have been involved include the CIA, the FBI, the State Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Given all that is known, Dr. Alderson's version of events seems completely credible--suggesting a frantic investigation immediately after the assassination. Whatever documentation might prove this has never surfaced. All these years later, with a few slender exceptions, that information remains entombed in the vaults of U. S. intelligence.

(NOTE TO LEGAL: Souetre, Roux and Mertz are alive. Souetre is in France and can be reached. Mertz is out of sight and believed to be in Canada. Roux became an American citizen in 1970 and lives in New York City. All allegations pertaining to the trio are contained in a brief filed in USDC for the District of Columbia, Civil Action #80-1056. Other sources can be cited. An uncertified copy of CA 80-1056 is attached.)

Cubans on the Move

Gilberto Policarpo Lopez, a Cuban American, moved from Havana to Florida in 1960 at the age of 20. He claimed American citizenship through his mother and was an unusual refugee in one important respect. Unlike so many of those leaving Cuba, Policarpo was pro-Castro in his political beliefs. He even once got into a fist-fight in Florida over his pro-Castro stance. He also became involved in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Back in Cuba, according to a Secret Service document disclosed under a Freedom of Information Act procedure in 1983, Policarpo's brother was active in Castro's military apparatus. That brother also had been sent to the Soviet Union for training.

On November 17, 1963, Policarpo, then 23, attended a meeting in Tampa at the home of the president of the local chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. President Kennedy was in Florida at the time of the meeting. Witnesses recall that Policarpo stated that he was awaiting a "go-ahead order" which would enable him to leave the United

States and return to Cuba. He explained that he had been having difficulties acquiring permission to return to Cuba.

The following facts are known about Policarpo's next moves:

On November 20, 1963, he was issued a Mexican Tourist Card in Tampa. Three days later, on the day after the Kennedy assassination, Policarpo crossed into Mexico at Nuevo Laredo. It was only hours after the border was reopened following its closure in the wake of the assassination. Policarpo's activities during those three days are not known.

On November 25th, Policarpo checked into the Roosevelt Hotel in Mexico City. On November 27th, he flew to Havana. He was traveling on a Cuban "courtesy visa" and an expired U.S. passport. The flight carried a crew of nine. Policarpo was the only passenger.

By March of 1964, Policarpo's name had been put forward by CIA sources as having been "involved" in the Kennedy assassination. Still, the CIA never informed the Warren Commission of Policarpo's activities which, at the heart, had rather striking parallels to what was eventually known of the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald regarding Cuban politics.

In 1976, the Senate Select Committee on intelligence activities suggested that Oswald may have been in contact with Policarpo's Tampa chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba

Committee. The House Assassinations Committee could find no supportive evidence for this allegation. In the end, the Assassinations Committee called the Policarpo matter "a troublesome circumstance that the committee was unable to resolve with confidence."

(One-line Space)

One of the most striking reports of odd activities around the time of the assassination concerns another flight from Mexico City to Havana. The Senate Select Committee first examined this in the mid-Seventies and reported that on November 22nd, a Cubana Airlines flight from Mexico City to Cuba was delayed for five hours, awaiting a passenger. The airfield at Mexico City was clogged that afternoon with Cuban diplomatic personnel trying to return to their homeland.

Finally, the passenger for whom the flight was being held arrived at 10:30 p.m., aboard a private twin-engine plane. The passenger got onto the Cubana flight directly without going through Customs, where he would have been identified. Once aboard, the mystery passenger entered the cockpit of the aircraft and remained there during the entire flight to Havana. No other passengers saw him well enough to be able later to identify him.

The Senate Select Committee was understandably as-

tonished that there evidently was no investigation into this matter, particularly since the information seemed to come from CIA sources. When asked about this oddity, the CIA informed the Committee that there was "no information indicating that a follow-up investigation was conducted to determine the identity of the passenger and (there was) no further information on the passenger, and no explanation for why a follow-up investigation was not conducted."

The House Assassinations Committee looked into this incident two years later. Its investigation seemed to stop upon the discovery of discrepancies in the timing of the Cubana Airlines departure and the arrival of the private plane. This was information the earlier Senate committee had found to be unavailable. The Assassinations Committee concluded that because of these discrepancies, "the transfer did not occur." Official interest ended there.

Today, the identity of the mystery passenger seems to have been established by documents disclosed under procedures of the Freedom of Information Act. The information in the documents is somewhat contradictory on several points, but the basic identification and other factors are certain.

The mystery passenger is believed to have been one Miguel Casas Saez. He is variously described by CIA sources as having been born in Cuba either in 1936 or 1942--making him either twenty-one or twenty-seven at the time of the assassination. He is described as being of stocky build and

of medium height.

According to a CIA document disclosed in 1983, Casas spoke the Russian language and was an ardent admirer of Raul Castro, the brother of the Cuban premier. He also was believed to be part of the Cuban intelligence service. The CIA document is based on two reports from its sources--one dated November 5, 1963, and the other November 15, 1963. Those reports on Casas were made prior to JFK's death. The document also shows that the CIA reviewed the reports on Casas soon after the assassination.

Using the fictitious name of Angel Dominique Martinez, Casas was believed to have entered the United States at Miami in late September of 1963. One source reports that Casas was on a "sabotage and espionage mission" in the United States. That source described Casas in November of 1963 as "about 5' 5" tall, about 155 pounds, and about 26 to 28 years of age."

The documents disclosed are somewhat confusing with their contradictions and with the deletions made by CIA prior to public release. However, it is clear that CIA sources in Cuba confirmed that Casas was in Dallas with two friends on November 22, 1963. He returned to Cuba that day, flying from Dallas in a twin-engine plane to Mexico City and then on to Cuba.

One of the CIA's sources reported information from Casas' aunt, known to the source "for many years as a re-

sponsible and serious person." She apparently knew Casas as "Miguelito." According to the document, the aunt told the CIA source:

"...Miguelito has just arrived from the U.S., he was in Dallas, Texas, on the day of the assassination of Kennedy, but he managed to leave through the frontier of Laredo; already in Mexico a...plane brought him to Cuba....(Y)ou know that he is one of Raul's men...; Miguelito is very brave, very brave!"

A CIA document, disclosed to researchers on November 21, 1983, reports that the CIA's Cuban source learned that "Casas had firing practice in militias and (is) capable of doing anything." That report, dated December 9, 1963, also states that the CIA source assigned two of his best men to investigate the Casas matter in Cuba. States the CIA source:

"...(I)nvestigation by two men confirms that Casas (was) indigent (and) poorly dressed prior to disappearance...for several weeks. (He) now dresses well, has much money, owns large amount (of) T-shirts, jackets and shoes, all American made...."

There, with maddening finality, the information stops. One is left to guess why Casas was in Dallas, how he acquired his money, for what reason he was spirited back to Cuba from Dallas on November 22nd with speed and efficiency that would be the envy of a head of state.

The Casas report is complemented by information from

another CIA document disclosed in 1983. It is conceivable that this report, if true, could explain how the two men who were reported to be with Casas got back to Cuba from Dallas. In late 1964, the CIA informed the FBI that it had received information from "an untested source." That source was reporting information received from "a well-known Cuban scientist," who was at the Havana airfield late on the afternoon of November 22, 1963. He observed an airplane with Mexican markings that landed and stopped on the far side of the field. The scientist saw two men "whom he recognized as Cuban gangsters" emerge from the plane and go into the back doors of the airfield's administration building, thus avoiding routine customs procedures. Curious, the scientist made inquiries about the flight and was informed that it had originated in Dallas.

On the routing slip that accompanies this document, someone at the CIA has scrawled: "I'd let this die a natural death, as the Bureau is doing." It was just as well, perhaps, because even by then--December, 1964--the CIA source in Cuba who made the report was dead. That fact is noted in the report with no additional details.

(One-line Space)

All of these movements by Cubans around Dallas at the time of the assassination certainly could be matters of

coincidence. There are, of course, stranger instances of coincidence. What is unfortunate is that federal agencies and official investigators never followed these leads beyond the first convenient point where the pursuit could be abandoned. Areas such as this are practically impossible for private researchers to pursue. Thus, the tantalizing trails stop, their promise eroded by official obfuscation and the passage of time.