

'THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



The CIA and the Killing of John F. Kennedy

PART I

“President Kennedy, as the enormity of the Bay of Pigs disaster came home to him, said to one of the highest officials of his Administration that he wanted ‘to splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds.’”

The New York Times
April 25, 1966

By Richard E. Sprague, Thomas G. Whittle and Kay Skinner

In preceding issues of *FREEDOM*, the subject of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) mind control experiments has been probed in considerable depth. Recent issues have examined the assassinations of Senator Robert F. Kennedy (See *FREEDOM*, January 1986) and musician John Lennon (See *FREEDOM*, March 1986) in light of information that these men may have been the subject of "hits" by the CIA.

In this issue, a close look is taken at the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Virtually every American alive today over the age of 30 can tell you exactly where he was and exactly what he was doing on November 22, 1963, upon first hearing the news of the much-loved president's death.

Today, most of those same Americans will tell you that they are not satisfied with the 26-volume explanation of the assassination offered to the American people by the Warren Commission.

There are a number of reasons why the Warren Commission report has been rejected by so many Americans. Not the least of these is the simple fact that its premise — that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed the president — is ludicrous at best; at worst it is the "big lie" which holds in place the greatest criminal conspiracy and cover-up in recent times.

"They dragged me into the elevator. They brought me upstairs. They told me I had shot Oswald. That was the first time I realized what I had done. I said, 'My God . . . My God!'"

Those words, attributed to Jack Ruby in early 1964, are part of the bizarre complex of events which have left the case of the assassination of John F. Kennedy unsolved for more than two decades.

Between the date of the president's killing and the date Ruby uttered those words, an interesting memorandum was generated from within the confines of the CIA's headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Authored by CIA Deputy Director for Plans Richard Helms (later to become the agency's director), the document is headed "Testing of Psychochemicals and Related Materials." Addressed to the deputy director of central intelligence, it states:

"At the conclusion of a meeting in your office on 29 November dealing with the problem of testing of psychochemicals and related materials, you asked that I submit a short paper to you on this



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Jack Ruby: the oblivious detachment of a programmed killer.

subject. . . .

"For over a decade the Clandestine Services has had the mission of maintaining a capability for influencing human behavior. . . . If we are to continue to maintain a capability for influencing human behavior, we are virtually obliged to test on unwitting humans."

Between the lines of Helms' memo — referring to a CIA meeting held just four days after the president was buried — is the unstated message that the agency needed to buckle down and perfect its mind control methods.

"Most of our difficulty," the memorandum states, "stems from the fact that, in our opinion, the individuals to be subjected to testing must be *unwitting*. This, unfortunately, is the only realistic method of maintaining the capability, considering the intended operational use of materials to influence human behavior. In the circumstances of potential operational use of this technique, it is virtually certain that the target will be unwitting. Any testing program which does not attempt to approximate this real situation will be 'pro forma' at best and result in a false

sense of accomplishment and readiness."

One highly informed source, who asked to remain unidentified for fear of losing his life, indicated to *FREEDOM* that there is strong evidence that the plot to kill the president had been in progress as early as January 1961 — the month John F. Kennedy took office.

An elaborate conspiracy began its work to, among other things, build an acceptable identity for the man who would become, in the public's mind, JFK's assassin. This man was Lee Harvey Oswald.

The highly informed source named various CIA contract agents and operatives who filled key roles in the assassination plot, its execution, and the subsequent cover-up.

Additionally, as intelligence expert Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty told *FREEDOM*, "There is ample evidence to show

"They dragged me into the elevator. They brought me upstairs. They told me I had shot Oswald. That was the first time I realized what I had done. I said, 'My God . . . My God!'"

President Kennedy was killed because he was moving to end the Cold War. The Cold War was basic and essential to the support of the CIA as well as the Pentagon; it was also a necessary part of the continually expanding military-industrial complex."

Another major point of friction between the intelligence agency and the president was the unsuccessful April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. (See "The CIA Enters the Days of Camelot," by Colonel Prouty, beginning on page 17.)

As a result of the president's displeasure with the agency's disastrous sabotage of the invasion, three top CIA executives — Director Allen W. Dulles, Deputy Director Charles P. Cabell, and Deputy Director for Plans Richard Bissell — were fired.

The animosity felt towards John F. Kennedy by these veteran CIA executives never came up as a subject of inquiry before the Warren Commission; quite to the contrary, Allen W. Dulles was one of the seven men appointed to the commission, entrusted with investi-

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gating the assassination.

One of the many crucial areas not addressed by the Warren Commission in its report was the culpable lack of security and protection of the fateful motorcade. Long-standing security procedures — embracing the speed of the motorcade, placement of security personnel in key positions along the parade route, and so forth — were thrown out the window.

More importantly, the motorcade route was changed shortly before the president was to ride through Dallas. The Warren Commission not only failed to probe the reason for the change of route, it deliberately constructed its findings in such a way as to misdirect future researchers. The Warren Commission's obfuscation is described well in the book, *Accessories After the Fact*, by Sylvia Meagher:

"The Warren report states that 'On the morning of the president's arrival, the [Dallas] *Morning News* noted that the motorcade would travel through downtown Dallas onto the Stemmons Freeway,' and reported that 'the motorcade will move slowly so that crowds can get a good view of President Kennedy and his wife.' The footnote to the statement refers to a cropped photocopy of the front page of *The Dallas Morning News* of November 22, 1963, showing only the headline and one column of print, with five columns blanked out. Examination of the uncropped first page reveals that the commission deleted a map of the presidential motorcade route on which the motorcade travels down Main Street, without turning on to Elm Street through the triple underpass and then to the Trade Mart¹.

"In addition to excising the map that indicated no detour from Main Street along Houston to Elm, the commission asserts that 'the Elm Street approach to the Stemmons Freeway is necessary to avoid the traffic hazards which would otherwise exist if right turns were permitted from both Main and Elm into the Freeway.' But traffic patrolman Joe Marshall Smith testified [before the Warren Commission] that he knew of nothing that would have prevented the motorcade from going directly down Main Street under the triple underpass

¹ For an orientation to key points, see the map on page 7.



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Lee Harvey Oswald maintained a consistent story. "I didn't shoot anybody, no sir," he told the press. Subsequent investigations have borne out his claim.

and onto the Stemmons Freeway."

The last-minute change in route was instrumental in the assassination and in the subsequent framing of Lee Harvey Oswald².

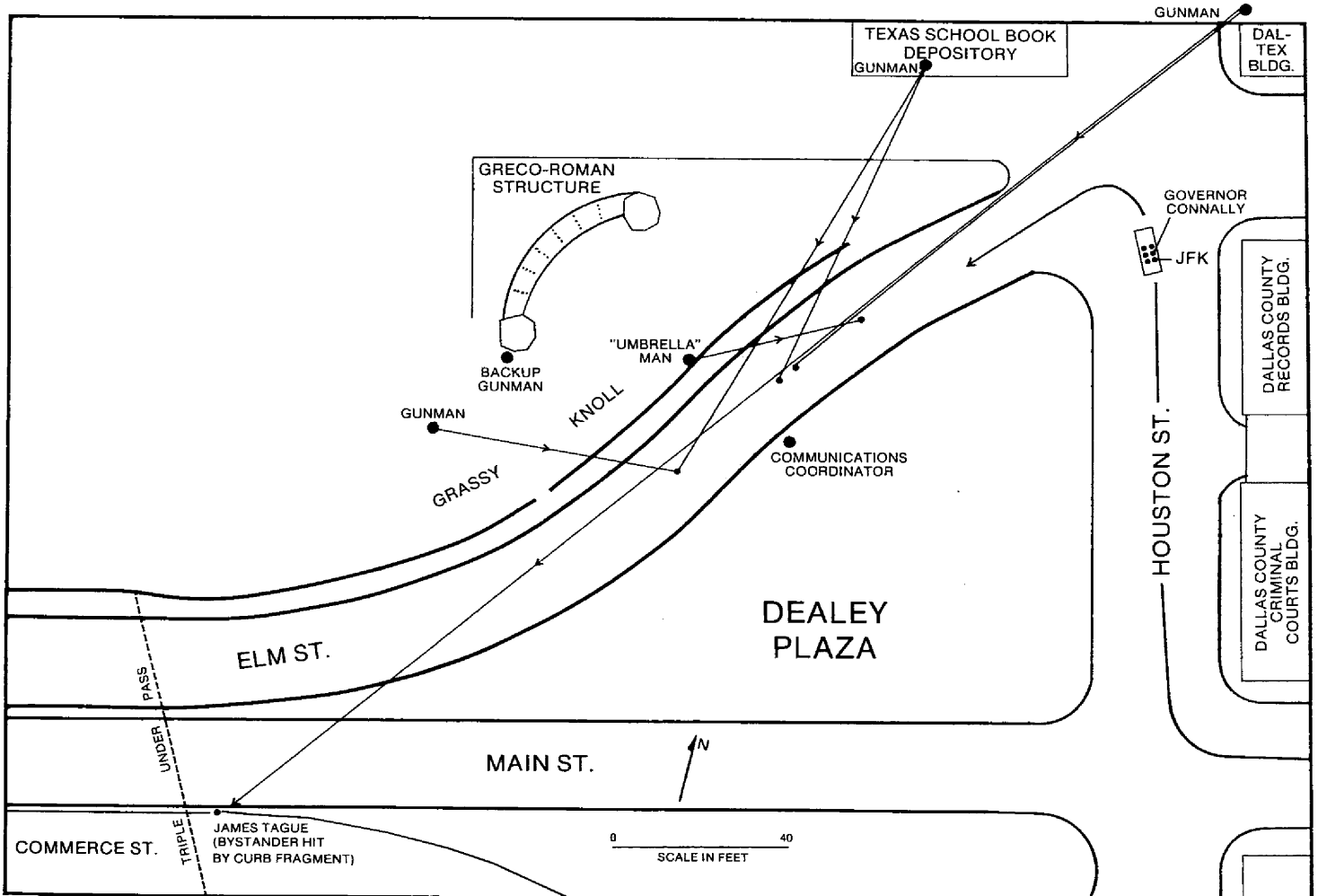
And so, on the fatal day, President Kennedy rode in an open convertible,

² A similar example of a fatal change of route would occur in June 1968, when Senator Robert F. Kennedy was led from the auditorium of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles to the hotel's pantry, where he was met by Sirhan Sirhan and at least one additional gunman. See FREEDOM's January 1986 feature, "The Killing of Robert Kennedy."

plainly visible to all. When the motorcade reached Dealey Plaza, it made the sharp right turn from Main Street onto Houston Street; then, at the next corner, it made the 120-degree left turn onto Elm Street in front of the Texas School Book Depository building, causing the huge limousine — after the second consecutive sharp turn — to reduce its parade speed to a crawl.

The young president rolled into the fatal ambush which awaited him, a proverbial sitting duck as the limousine rounded the sharp turn onto Elm Street.

The stage for the killing of the president had been set; contract killers and



According to the most probable scenario, the assassination team included four riflemen and a man with a special umbrella weapon. This diagram shows the trajectories of five bullets and one paralysis-inducing dart, launched from the "umbrella."

numerous support personnel would accomplish the fatal act in just 6.8 seconds.

Afterwards, however, this tightly laid plan was thrown in jeopardy, as Lee Harvey Oswald repeatedly told reporters and anyone who would listen that he did not kill the president.

"I'm just a patsy," he said. "I didn't shoot anybody, no sir," he said. "I haven't shot anybody," he said. "I have committed no act of violence," he said.

Substantial investigation by numerous objective researchers has borne out Oswald's claim that he indeed was the "patsy" for the assassination.

Research has also revealed that while Oswald was not part of the conspiracy to kill the president, he knew some of the conspirators, he was aware of the plot, and he had reported information about the conspiracy to the FBI days before the killing. Oswald was a paid FBI informant at the time.

There is evidence that Oswald was slated for a bullet at the time of his arrest. The carefully constructed frame-up of

"One highly informed source, who asked to remain unidentified for fear of losing his life, indicated to FREEDOM that there is strong evidence that the plot to kill the president had been in progress as early as January 1961 — the month John F. Kennedy took office."

the alleged assassin was weakest at the point of Oswald himself: a living, breathing Oswald could rebut all charges and knock the frame-up apart, point by point.

It is possible that the CIA attempted to terminate Oswald as a threat between the

time of the assassination and the time of Oswald's death, using some other means besides gunfire. FREEDOM has copies of two CIA memoranda regarding the agency's procedures for "disposing of" agents who become "security risks."

One, dated March 7, 1951, describes the problem faced by the agency when "blown agents" have knowledge of sensitive agency operations. Heavy drugging which produces total amnesia for a year or more is cited as one of the choices for handling such agents in the heavily censored document, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

The second document, dated February 5, 1954, also obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, refers to two men who were "disposal problems, one because of his lack of ability to carry out a mission and the other because he cannot get along with [deleted] the chief agent of the project."

This memorandum states, "Both have extensive information concerning the
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[deleted] assets and thus are security risks wherever they are disposed of.

"Anything that can be done in the Artichoke³ field to lessen the security risk will be helpful since the men must be disposed of even at maximum security risk. The urgency of consideration of this case is due to the fact that one of the men is already somewhat stir crazy and has tried to escape twice."

After his arrest, Lee Harvey Oswald was more than "stir crazy." As a man who had knowledge of the massive conspiracy, he could testify about the plot against the president, and the links that led to the highest circles of government and the financial community.

Worse, he was talking to the press.

If mind control, as described in the Artichoke document and elsewhere, had been attempted on him, it was obvious to those who had done so that their work had failed. He had to be terminated directly.

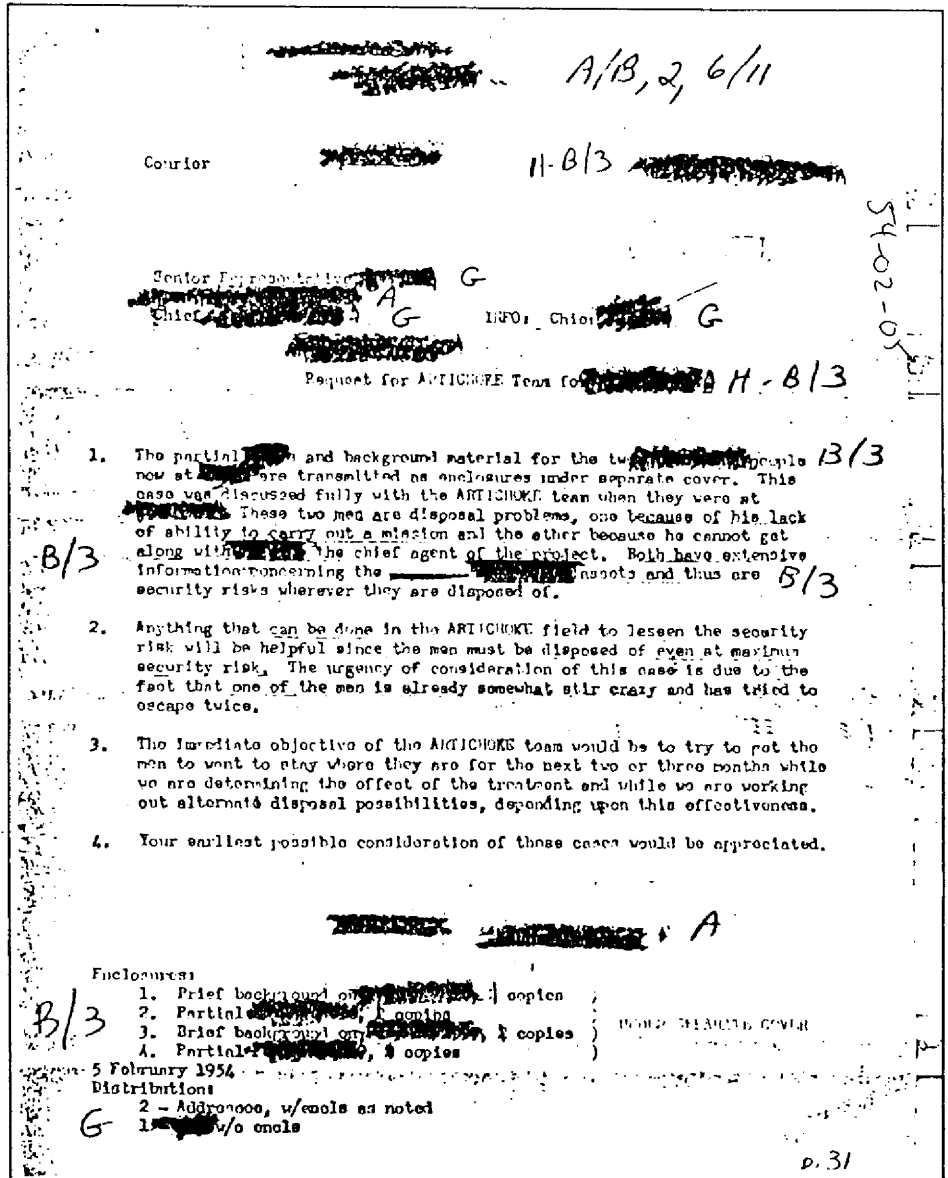
Enter Jack Ruby.

A man with well-known connections to organized crime, the nightclub owner was reportedly let in through a back entrance to the Dallas Municipal Building by a police lieutenant when Oswald was being transferred from there to the Dallas County Jail, which was located about a mile away. Ruby's mission: kill Oswald.

An audible signal (an auto horn) was

³ In another 1954 CIA document, headed "Artichoke," some insight is gained into the CIA mind control program of that name. The document states that the agency was concerned with the following problem: "Can an individual of [deleted] descent be made to perform an act of attempted assassination involuntarily under the influence of Artichoke?"

"As a 'trigger mechanism' for a bigger project, it was proposed that an individual of [deleted] descent, approximately 35 years old, well educated, proficient in English and well established socially and politically in the [deleted] Government be induced under Artichoke to perform an act, involuntarily, of attempted assassination against a prominent [deleted] politician or if necessary, against an American official. . . . Because the Subject is a heavy drinker, it was proposed that the individual could be surreptitiously drugged through the medium of an alcoholic cocktail at a social party, Artichoke applied and the Subject induced to perform the act of attempted assassination at some later date. All the above was to be accomplished at one involuntary uncontrolled social meeting. After the act of attempted assassination was performed, it was assumed that the Subject would be taken into custody by the [deleted] Government and thereby 'disposed of.'"



This February 5, 1954, CIA document refers to two men who were "disposal problems." The author of the memorandum sought the help of an agency mind control team operating under the name of Artichoke.

"It is possible that the CIA attempted to terminate Oswald as a threat between the time of the assassination and the time of Oswald's death, using some other means besides gunfire."

used to let Ruby and his escort know when Oswald was coming down an elevator into the garage of the Municipal Building. The two men came down an elevator opposite the one carrying Os-

wald.

At 11:21 a.m. on Sunday, November 24, as a shocked nation watched the carefully orchestrated live media event, Ruby walked up to Oswald and fired a bullet into his abdomen. Oswald was taken to Parkland Hospital, the same facility at which the president died. Within two hours, Oswald was dead; a "blown agent" had been "disposed of."

The death of Oswald opened the door for the creation of the Warren Commission, and the weaving of that enormous tapestry of lies and disinformation. (Oswald's death, however, did not eliminate the need for a murder trial, which, under Texas law, must still be held. This

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law, however, has never been enforced in relation to Kennedy's murder.)

Those who carried out the plot now faced the hardest problems of all: how to keep a blanket on the massive conspiracy itself, and how to prevent any loose ends from unraveling.

The scope of this endeavor can perhaps best be appreciated by examining what actually *did* occur at Dealey Plaza. The following is a scenario which summarizes the most likely sequence of events. It is based on extensive, meticulous research on the subject by the co-author of this article, Richard E. Sprague. Sprague conducted personal interviews with all 75 photographers who took either still or motion pictures in the plaza that day, and made a close, personal inspection of all available photographs — which number in the tens of thousands.

It is based as well on thousands of hours of interviews with the primary sources who were witnesses to the assassination and to the bizarre series of events at Dealey Plaza before and after the assassination.

On November 22, 1963, an assassination team of four riflemen, accompanied by their radio men and several other support personnel, moved into Dealey Plaza.

One gunman and a radio man entered the Texas School Book Depository building through the freight entrance and worked their way to the roof.

Another gunman and another radio man went into the Dal-Tex building through the freight entrance on Houston Street and up a back staircase to the second floor. The Dal-Tex building, which lies across Houston Street from the Book Depository, provided the gunman with an excellent field of fire, one that commanded Elm Street along the entire distance that the shots would be fired.

The two remaining gunmen and their two companions took up separate firing positions on the grassy knoll along Elm Street. One gunman was inside the westernmost cupola of a Greco-Roman structure on the knoll. The fourth gunman and the two remaining members of the grassy knoll team were near the fence along the back of the knoll, away from any crowds that might gather to see the passing motorcade.

A man with a specially modified umbrella stood near the Stemmons Freeway



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Intelligence expert Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty: "There is ample evidence to show President Kennedy was killed because he was moving to end the Cold War. The Cold War was basic and essential to the support of the CIA as well as the Pentagon; it was also a necessary part of the continually expanding military-industrial complex."

sign on Elm Street accompanied by another radio man — bringing the total number of radio operators to four.

A communications coordinator worked from the Adolphus Hotel a few blocks away, testing the two-way radio communication system which linked him with the four radio men. This man then proceeded to Dealey Plaza and mingled with a large crowd near the corner of Houston and Elm streets.

Other team members stationed themselves in the crowd along Elm Street. There are clear photos of these men⁴.

In addition to the two gunmen and

their two companions on the grassy knoll, a fifth man took up a separate position at the corner of the wall on the knoll. Upon a visual and oral signal from this man at the wall, and upon a radio command from the communications coordinator, the team began to fire its first round of shots at 12:30 p.m. CST, just after the presidential limousine had made the difficult 120-degree turn onto Elm Street.

The man with the specially modified umbrella fired a round: his weapon was a small-bore umbrella weapon which fired
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⁴ These men were assigned to circulate through the crowd in front of the Texas School Book Depository building and elsewhere. Following the assassination, their task was to identify themselves as Secret Service agents or FBI agents and to interrogate witnesses and officials to determine whether the real assassins had been detected.

According to sworn testimony by the head of the Secret Service detail that had guarded the president, all Secret Service agents in the motorcade had

accompanied the presidential limousine in its desperate dash to Parkland Hospital. According to his testimony, not one Secret Service agent was in Dealey Plaza from the moment they left until he himself returned at 12:55.

During this hiatus of approximately 20 minutes, clear photographs were obtained of several of those conspirators who posed as Secret Service agents as part of the rapidly mushrooming cover-up.

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a poison-tipped flechette⁵. When this shot struck JFK in the throat, as visible in frame 189 of the famous film by amateur photographer Abraham Zapruder, the dart caused complete paralysis of the president's upper body, hands, arms, shoulders and head in less than two seconds.

The Zapruder film and other photographs show that this paralysis, and the timing, match testimony before Congress regarding how quickly the CIA poison works and what its paralyzing effects look like. At this moment of first impact, a large oak tree shielded JFK from the sixth floor far corner window of the Texas School Book Depository building — in which alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald supposedly crouched.

Two seconds later, at frame 225 of the Zapruder film, the gunman on the second floor of the Dal-Tex building fired his first shot, on command from his radio man.

This shot struck the now-paralyzed and helpless JFK in the back about 5¾ inches down from the collar line.

The gunman on the roof of the Texas School Book Depository fired his shot from the west end of the building upon command from his radio man between frames 230 and 237 of the Zapruder film. Using a Mauser with no telescopic sight, he fired high and to the right, hitting Texas Governor John Connally in the back. This bullet traveled through Connally's chest and entered his left thigh.

Neither of the two gunmen on the grassy knoll fired during this first round. As back-up gunmen, they would have better shots at the president after the limousine had rolled another 60 to 80 feet down Elm Street — if their guns were needed.

⁵ A small, clear plastic missile or dart carrying poison which can be individually fired from a tube much the size of a drinking straw. This could be a single tube or a cluster of tubes. These are rockets and have no recoil, make little or no noise, have a high terminal velocity, and are hard to detect after they have entered a person's body.

The flechette device was secretly introduced in the Pentagon in 1961, and the inventor was referred to the Office of Special Operations, where clandestine activities were managed. The device was demonstrated to FREEDOM Senior Editor L. Fletcher Prouty, then the senior Air Force officer in the Office of Special Operations. From there, the inventor was taken to Fort Detrick, Maryland, where many of the most secret military and CIA

In October 1963, the month this photo was taken, the president called for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Vietnam by the end of 1965.



The communications man gave a second radio command for another round of shots as JFK passed the Stemmons Freeway sign.

The gunman in the Dal-Tex building fired his second shot between Zapruder frames 265 and 275. This bullet narrowly missed JFK, passing over the top of his head and over the top of the limousine's windshield. On its very flat trajectory, it traveled on to strike the south curb of

Main Street, breaking off a piece of the concrete curb which flew up and hit bystander James Tague in the face. This bullet either disintegrated or flew into the area beyond the overpass, and was not recovered.

Lacking a clear view of the president until frame 310 of the Zapruder film, the gunman in the cupola on the grassy knoll

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devices were developed. At Fort Detrick, a CIA contract weapons employee named Charles Sensenay worked on a project which developed, among other things, an umbrella weapon that used flechettes.

The user of the umbrella weapon could sight through a small ring or eyelet at normal eye level on the main shaft of the umbrella, lining up his target with the extended umbrella rib that held the flechette.

Moving pictures taken in Dealey Plaza at the time of the shooting — in the early afternoon on a clear, sunny day — show the fully opened umbrella rotating slowly as the umbrella man tracked his target.

These rocket devices or flechettes were accurate and reliable for moderate distances: because they

were soundless and almost impossible to locate in the body, they became a favorite for clandestine use.

In 1976, flechettes came to the nation's attention when the U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, chaired by the late Senator Frank Church of Idaho, took the public testimony of weapons expert Charles Sensenay regarding flechette weapons.

Sensenay described a system used by the CIA in Vietnam and elsewhere for killing or paralyzing people almost instantly with poisons carried in self-propelled flechettes. (The Church Committee examined these weapons as part of its extensive probe of criminal misconduct on the part of the CIA and other intelligence organizations.)

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had not yet fired.

A second shot fired from the Mauser-wielding gunman atop the Texas School Book Depository apparently struck JFK in the upper right part of his head at frame 312 of the Zapruder film.

This bullet apparently also produced a fragment which passed through Governor Connally's wrist at frame 313 of the Zapruder film.

Almost simultaneously, at Zapruder frame 312, the gunman near the fence along the back of the grassy knoll fired his first and only bullet, a fatal head shot which sent a blood cloud flying far enough to splatter three motorcycle policemen riding some 12 to 15 feet behind the presidential limousine.

In the space of 6.8 seconds, the shooting was over.

Today, more than two decades later, the death of John F. Kennedy hovers on the edges of America's consciousness, a nightmare that just won't go away.

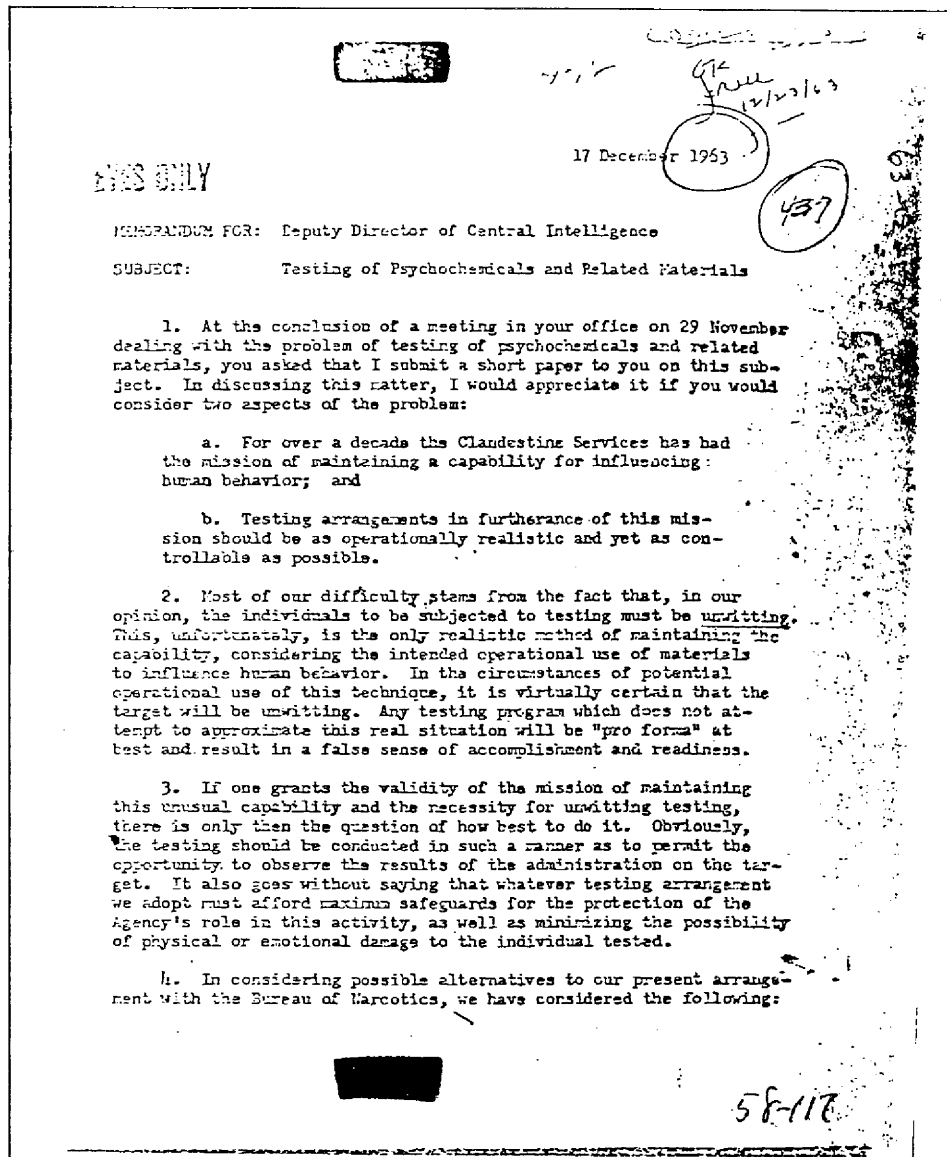
Twenty-six volumes of disinformation published by the Warren Commission in 1964 failed to dispel the certainty in many Americans' minds that the slaying was not the work of one "lone nut."

With the president dead, and the scapegoat unable to defend himself, the cover-up moved into high gear with rapid elimination of potential key witnesses.

The deaths of witnesses have been widely written about and well documented. As described in *The People's Almanac* by David Wallechinsky and Irving Wallace, "Accidents to witnesses are not uncommon in the case of this assassination: In the three-year period which followed the murders of President Kennedy and Lee Oswald, 18 material witnesses died — six by gunfire, three in motor accidents, two by suicide, one from a cut throat, one from a karate chop to the neck, three from heart attacks, and two from natural causes. An actuary engaged by *The London Sunday Times* concluded that on November 22, 1963, the odds against every one of these witnesses being dead by February 1967 were 100,000 trillion to one."

The list of mysterious deaths in connection with the assassination has grown through the years, and at last count was approaching the 200 mark.

Not the least of these deaths was that of syndicated columnist Dorothy Kilgallen. After being granted the opportu-



This December 1963 memorandum from CIA Deputy Director for Plans Richard Helms to the deputy director of central intelligence refers to a meeting on November 29 — just four days after John F. Kennedy's funeral — and contains the implication that the agency needed to buckle down and perfect its mind control techniques.

“Former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison . . . told FREEDOM that ‘If there’s one thing I would stake my life on, it is that there is no mystery at all as to who killed John F. Kennedy.’ The president, Garrison said, was killed by agents and operatives of the CIA.”

nity to be the first and only journalist to conduct a private interview with Jack Ruby, she told friends she had information which would “blow the JFK case sky high.” Before her story could appear in print, however, she was found dead in her New York apartment. The apartment had been ransacked and all of her records and notes regarding the Kennedy assassination were missing. Her death was termed a “suicide.”

The enormity of the crime of the Kennedy murder and the scope of the subsequent cover-up is perhaps unsurpassed in recent history. Information in the hands of FREEDOM indicates that President Kennedy was killed by con-

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tract agents and operatives of an agency of his own executive branch of government — the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who conducted an intensive probe of the Kennedy assassination in the late 1960s, told FREEDOM that "If there's one thing I would stake my life on, it is that there is no mystery at all as to who killed John F. Kennedy." The president, Garrison said, was killed by agents and operatives of the CIA.

Ted Gandolfo, an audio expert who reportedly has 5,000 hours of tape recordings related to the case, asserted that the tapes show conclusively that more than one gunman was involved in the slaying, and that agents of the CIA were responsible for the president's death⁶.

CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, was contacted for comment.

CIA spokesman Patti Volz claimed that "Congress completely vindicated the agency." She could not provide specifics regarding the nature of this vindication, but said, "The CIA was not involved in any way in the assassination of John Kennedy."

Questioned on how frequently the agency might have used the special umbrella gun, Volz said, "I have no guidance on that at all."

An additional aspect of apparent CIA involvement arises from the fact that while he was in jail, endeavoring to be allowed to appear before the Warren Commission to testify regarding who had really killed the president, Jack Ruby was visited by psychiatrist Louis J. "Jolly" West, an expert hypnotist with recognized CIA ties.

West at the time was chief of the department of psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma. The year before the president's assassination, he had made psychiatric history by becoming the first and to date only man to have killed an elephant with LSD.

Prior to that, West reportedly received CIA funds for mind control experiments with LSD and other drugs. These funds



PHOTO BY BEN TONG

Psychiatrist Louis J. West has been described as "perhaps the chief advocate of mind control in America" with a "public career [that] appears like a carefully constructed espionage cover."

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were laundered through a CIA front group, the Geschickter Fund for Medical Research.

Walter Bowart, author of the classic book on CIA mind control activities, *Operation Mind Control*, wrote that West is "perhaps the chief advocate of mind control in America today." According to Bowart, "From his participation in the development of brainwashing techniques for the U.S. Air Force to his involvement in the CIA's famous MK ULTRA⁷ projects, West has figured so prominently in the research and devel-

opment of the invisible war⁸ that his public career appears like a carefully constructed espionage 'cover.'"

West examined Ruby in his jail cell on April 26, 1964, and concluded that the man was "obviously psychotic" and should be hospitalized.

West focused his attention on Ruby long before this examination, however. In an article which appeared in the December 1963 issue of *The Sooner* magazine, entitled "The Act of Violence," West wrote about the Kennedy assassination, directing attention to "the killer." In line with his key role of shaping public opinion 10 months before the October 1964 release of the Warren Commission report, West informed his readers that "Lee Harvey Oswald, who killed President Kennedy . . . was a self-styled Marxist."

West, the master hypnotist/mind control expert, visited Ruby six times in 1964 and 1965.

West's "examinations" of Ruby assume greater significance in light of Ruby's refusal to fulfill his designated role as a key member of the conspiracy. In this he shared a characteristic with Oswald: he would not take the rap. Instead he pressed the chairman of the Warren Commission, Chief Justice Earl Warren, and Representative Gerald Ford (a commission member destined to become president of the United States) for the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., to testify before the commission.

In a meeting with Warren and Ford in the Dallas County Jail, Ruby articulated his concerns. He could not talk in Texas, he said, because he feared for his life. He said that if he was brought to Washington as a witness, however, he would be able to reveal those involved in the conspiracy to kill the president. Why he felt he could talk in Washington but not in Texas has never been clear, but in any case, the chief justice told Ruby such a trip would not be possible. The meeting between the three men broke for lunch, and Warren and Ford never came back.

Later, while still confined in the Dallas County Jail, Ruby claimed that he was being injected with live cancer cells; one source alleged that psychiatrist West was the man who administered the injections to Ruby.

FREEDOM endeavored to reach West at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute, of

⁶ Gandolfo's collection includes tapes of the shots fired at Dealey Plaza, as well as recordings of conversations and meetings with witnesses and participants in the conspiracy.

⁷ As described by former CIA Director Stansfield Turner, MK ULTRA was an "umbrella project" that embraced 149 separate subprojects. These were wide-ranging research efforts in chemical and biological warfare, and behavior modification through drugs, hypnosis, and other forms of "mind control."

⁸ The invisible war is warfare as planned and conducted by modern intelligence agencies, such as the American CIA and the Soviet KGB.

which he is the director, in order to question him regarding his examinations of Jack Ruby and regarding any treatments he might have given to Ruby.

West was unavailable, and would not return our calls.

Jim Garrison indicated to FREEDOM that "They had to keep a certain amount of control over Ruby. He was a bomb until he died."

Perhaps it was sheer coincidence, but a skillful case was developed by Ruby's attorney, Melvin Belli, regarding Ruby's "mental problems" — head injury, brain injury — paving the way to make Ruby irrelevant to the JFK assassination case.

Lee Harvey Oswald had been "disposed of" through the blunt means of a bullet; Jack Ruby was "disposed of" by means of psychiatric drugs and utter discrediting of his character.

Roy Schafer, a Yale psychologist called as a witness by attorney Belli, said that Ruby "appears to feel not altogether in control of his body actions, as if they occur independently of his conscious will at times, as if they can be controlled by external forces."

Right after he shot Oswald, as he was being grabbed by law enforcement officers, Ruby reportedly said, "You don't have to beat me — my brains out. I'm Jack Ruby. What am I doing here? What are you guys jumping on me for? Why am I here? I'm Jack Ruby. I'm not somebody that's wanted."

And then, as Ruby's reported description of the event continued, "They dragged me into the elevator. They brought me upstairs. They told me I had shot Oswald. That was the first time I realized what I had done. I said, 'My God . . . My God!'"

Psychiatrist Werner Tuteur, in an article published in *Mental Hygiene*, described a series of four examinations he had given Ruby in July 1965. In scattered moments of lucidity, Ruby's predicament surfaced.

According to Tuteur, "Practically all his statements were colored by marked fear. He considers himself the victim of a conspiracy. . . . Ruby insists he knows who had President Kennedy killed. They want him to be insane so no one will believe his story."

In an interview recorded with his brother Earl in December 1966, shortly after he had been admitted to Parkland Hospital for treatment of pneumonia (which turned out to be extensive, advanced cancer), Ruby said he had no memory of the moment he shot Oswald. "It happened in such a blur," he said, "before I



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The brief burst of gunfire in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963, was the beginning of a massive cover-up which, at last count, had claimed nearly 200 lives.

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knew it . . . the officers had me on the ground."

Ruby's words show the oblivious detachment of a programmed killer — of a man shaped in the mold of a brainwashed assassin operating under the influence and orders of another.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed Ruby's murder conviction on October 5, 1966. The case never went to retrial, however, as Ruby died of a blood clot in the lungs, compounded by the

advanced cancer, on January 3, 1967.

While Ruby's death made it easier to keep a lid on the conspiracy, it did not bring an end to the efforts of the men who worked so hard to keep the cover-up in place. ▲

Next issue: How the CIA and its powerful allies in the U.S. financial community maintained the cover-up of the John F. Kennedy assassination. Among other things, FREEDOM will show how the CIA subverted the 1978 House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Richard E. Sprague served as a consultant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. Recognized as one of the foremost experts on the John F. Kennedy assassination, Sprague also served as an adviser to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison during his probe of the assassination.

A pioneer and acknowledged authority in the field of computers, Sprague worked as a consultant to the President's Commission on Electronic Funds Transfer Systems and currently is vice president for marketing for a New York-based computer firm.

Thomas G. Whittle has been editor of FREEDOM for the past four years.

Kay Skinner is a Los Angeles researcher.