

Did Oswald give Russia information about the U2?

NEW YORK (AP) — Lee Harvey Oswald may have provided the Soviet Union with secret information about the American U-2 plane, enabling it to shoot down Francis Gary Powers' spy plane in 1950, according to a new book by author Edward Jay Epstein.

Epstein also says in his book, "Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald," that the FBI, anxious to support its finding that Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, relied upon statements of a Russian defector who may have been a Soviet secret agent trying to dispel any connection between Oswald and Soviet intelligence.

And in an interview in the current issue of New York magazine, Epstein says that in 1962 a Soviet official attached to the United Nations duped former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover into thinking he had defected as a Soviet secret police officer and fed Hoover false information about Russian ac-

tivities, information that was passed on to the White House.

Epstein says Hoover believed that with the help of the official — code named "Fedora" — he could compete with the CIA, and that Hoover did not pass the information on to the CIA and refused to disclose "Fedora's" identity to the agency. Epstein says that from 1962 until 1977, "Fedora" provided the FBI with misleading information on a wide range of subjects.

Two excerpts of Epstein's book are in the March issue of Reader's Digest, which will publish the book in April. Epstein, who had examined the Warren Commission's investigation of Kennedy's assassination in the 1966 book "Inquest," said his latest work is based on information from present and former CIA, FBI and other officials.

In writing on Oswald and the U-2, Epstein says that while Oswald was a Marine radar controller at Atsugi Air Base in Japan in 1957, he frequently saw the U-2 take off and land and heard its high altitude requests for weather information on the radio.

Epstein suggests that Oswald provided Russia with information either then or when he defected to the Soviet Union that enabled them to knock down Powers' plane while it was flying over the Soviet Union.

Oswald spent 2½ years in the Soviet Union, leaving the United States in 1959 and returning in 1962.

Powers died in Los

Angeles in 1977 when the helicopter he was flying for a radio station crashed.

Epstein also says in his book that the FBI seized upon the statements of Yuri Nosenko, who defected in early 1964 shortly after Kennedy's assassination and told U.S. intelligence agents that Oswald had no ties to the Soviet secret police.

At the time, the Warren Commission was trying to determine whether Oswald acted alone, as the FBI concluded, or was part of a foreign conspiracy in the shooting of Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

According to Epstein, James J. Angleton, former chief of the CIA's counter-intelligence section, suspected that Nosenko was not really a defector but had been sent by the Russians to deceive American intelligence officials and was still working for the Russian secret police, the KGB.

The theory that Nosenko was a bogus defector was conveyed privately in mid-1964 to then-Chief Justice Earl Warren by Richard Helms, then head of the CIA's covert operations division, Epstein said.

The chief justice was shaken by the questions Helms raised, Epstein says, but at a closed meeting later that same day, the Warren Commission decided not to interrogate Nosenko.

Epstein writes that Hoover tried to suppress doubts about the defector.

Obituaries

Caterina L. Valpredo

ALBANY — A Rosary will be recited tonight at 7 p.m. for Caterina L. Valpredo, 88, who died Friday in Albany. A native of Tonco Monferrato, Italy, she lived in Albany and was a member of St. Ambrose Church.

The Rosary will be in the chapel of Ellis-Olson Mortuary, where services are also scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday at 9 a.m. at St. Ambrose Church. Entombment will follow at St.