

19. FEWTER - LEE HARVEY OSWALD; ASSASSIN OF
 JOHN F. KENNEDY; HAD ACCESS TO HIGHEST PRIORITY
 MILITARY SECRETS AND MAY HAVE PASSED THEM ON TO THE RUSSIANS;
 ACCORDING A STUDY RELEASED TODAY BY THE READERS DIGEST.
 THE STUDY ALSO CONCLUDES THAT THE CIA, THE FBI AND THE
 SOVIET KGB WERE INVOLVED IN COVERUPS OF OSWALD'S LIFE IN THE
 U.S. MARINES AND IN THE SOVIET UNION; WHERE HE LIVED AS A
 DEFECTOR FROM 1959 TO 1962.

THE 2 1/2-YEAR, 200,000-DOLLAR INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED
 BY EDWARD J. EPSTEIN; A LEADING AMERICAN CRITIC OF THE OFFICIAL
 WARREN COMMISSION PROBE OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.
 CALLED "LEGENDS: THE SECRET LIFE OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD" IT
 FOCUSES ON AREAS OF OSWALD'S LIFE NOT TOUCHED ON BEFORE BY
 EITHER JOURNALISTS OR GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS; ESPECIALLY HIS
 ACCESS TO MILITARY SECRETS WHEN HE WAS A MARINE; AND HIS LIFE
 IN RUSSIA.
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OSWALD 2 NEW YORK

THE STUDY DOES NOT CHALLENGE THE OFFICIAL THEORY THAT
 OSWALD ACTED AS A LONE ASSASSIN IN THE KENNEDY MURDER.
 BUT IT REVEALS FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT A KGB "DEFECTOR"
 ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES JUST AS PRESIDENT JOHNSON WAS
 PUSHING THE WARREN COMMISSION TO FINISH ITS STUDY. THE DEFECTOR
 CLAIMED THAT WHILE IN RUSSIA THE SOVIET KGB INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 DID NOT BOTHER WITH OSWALD BECAUSE IT CONSIDERED HIM UNSTABLE.
 ACCORDING TO EPSTEIN; THIS DEFECTOR'S STORY WAS A "LEGEND"
 -- THE ESPIONAGE WORLD'S TERM FOR A COVER STORY -- AND THE CIA
 WAS SUCCESSFULLY PREVENTED FROM BREAKING THE DEFECTOR'S STORY
 BY J. EDGAR HOOVER; THEN HEAD OF THE FBI.

THE DEFECTOR WAS NAMED YURI NOSENKO; AND HE CLAIMED TO HAVE
 BEEN IN CHARGE OF OSWALD'S KGB FILE. EPSTEIN SAYS THAT NOSENKO
 CLAIMED THE KGB HAD NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN OSWALD AND
 RECOMMENDED THAT HE GO BACK TO THE U.S.

OSWALD; AFTER BEING MUSTERED OUT OF THE MARINES IN 1959;
 WENT TO MOSCOW; WHERE HE RENOUNCED HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP.
 EPSTEIN SAYS NOSENKO'S CLAIMS RAN COUNTER TO ALL STANDARD
 KGB PROCEDURES IN DEALING WITH U.S. DEFECTORS AND WHEN THE CIA
 WANTED TO FOLLOW THE MATTER UP; THE FBI STEPPED IN.
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OSWALD 3 NEW YORK

HE SAID THE REASON THE FBI DECIDED TO "DOMINATE THE SITUATION" WAS THAT MR. HOOVER FEARED ANY INFORMATION SHOWING OSWALD HAD A SINISTER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KGB WOULD EXPOSE HIS ORGANIZATION.

HOOVER AND OTHER TOP FBI EXECUTIVES BELIEVED THAT THE AGENCY BOTCHED ITS INVESTIGATION OF OSWALD ON HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

EPSTEIN SAYS THAT HOOVER PREVENTED THE CIA FROM ASKING NOSENKO 44 KEY QUESTIONS EVEN THOUGH THE DEFECTOR APPEARED TO CHANGE HIS ACCOUNT ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF HIS LIFE IN THE KGB.

HOOVER USED A SOVIET DOUBLE AGENT WORKING AT THE UNITED NATIONS TO CHECK NOSENKO'S ACCOUNT. THIS AGENT, CODE-NAMED "FEDORA" VERIFIED NOSENKO'S STORY, BUT THE CIA FELT THAT FEDORA HIMSELF MIGHT HAVE BEEN A KGB PLANT.

THE CIA'S THEN DIRECTOR, RICHARD HELMS, MET SECRETLY WITH CHIEF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE EARL WARREN AND LET HIM KNOW FOR THE FIRST TIME ABOUT CIA SUSPICIONS OF NOSENKO. AS A RESULT, THE WARREN COMMISSION DECIDED NOT TO CALL NOSENKO AS A WITNESS.

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OSWALD 4 NEW YORK

EPSTEIN CLAIMS OSWALD'S BACKGROUND AS A MARINE WAS COVERED UP BY U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. HE SAYS OSWALD, WHILE A MARINE RADAR CONTROLLER IN JAPAN, TAIWAN, THE PHILIPPINES AND CALIFORNIA, HAD ACCESS TO HIGHEST PRIORITY INFORMATION, INCLUDING HOW THE THEN-SECRET U-2 SPY PLANE WORKED.

EPSTEIN SAYS OSWALD WITNESSED REPEATED TAKEOFFS OF THE U-2 AT A U.S. AIR BASE AT HTSUGI, JAPAN, AND COULD HAVE KNOWN ITS RATE OF CLIMB, PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS AND CRUISING ALTITUDES.

EPSTEIN QUOTES ONE UNNAMED OFFICER AS SAYING OSWALD SHOWED AN EXTRAORDINARY INTEREST IN THE PATH OF THE PLANE, WHICH WAS THEN CONSIDERED TO BE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TARGET OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE.

IN ADDITION, INFORMATION WHICH OSWALD COULD HAVE KNOWN INCLUDES HEIGHT LIMITATIONS OF AMERICAN RADAR, BLIND SPOTS CAUSED BY GROUND TRAFFIC, SECRET MILITARY RADIO FREQUENCIES, CALL SIGNS AND CODES.

HE ALSO COULD HAVE HAD ACCESS TO ALL SECURITY PROCEDURES FOR CHANGING CODES AND THE LOCATION AND RANGE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT

STATIONED IN THE PACIFIC

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OSWALD 5 NEW YORK

EPSTEIN ALSO DETAILS HOW OSWALD SOURED ON THE U.S. AS A MARINE AND BEGAN TALKING MORE AND MORE IN COMMUNIST SLOGANS. EPSTEIN RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT OSWALD WAS RECRUITED BY THE SOVIETS AS AN AGENT WHILE HE WAS STILL IN THE MARINES.

THE FIRST PART OF "LEGEND" IS TO BE PUBLISHED THIS THURSDAY IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE READER'S DIGEST. A SECOND PART WILL COME OUT IN THE APRIL DIGEST AND COINCIDE WITH PUBLICATION OF THE COMPLETE BOOK. THE WORK IS BASED ON A STUDY OF 10,000 PAGES OF PREVIOUSLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS WITH MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE.

ONE OF THE 400 WAS GEORGE DEMOHRENSCHILDT; WHOM THE FBI BELIEVES WAS ASSOCIATED AT ONE TIME WITH FOUR DIFFERENT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

DEMOKHRENSCHILDT; WHO KNEW OSWALD AFTER THE LATTER RETURNED TO THE U.S.; WAS INTERVIEWED BY EPSTEIN FOR A DAY AND A HALF IN 1976. DURING A LUNCH-BREAK; HE WAS FOUND WITH HIS HEAD BLOWN OFF APPARENTLY BY A SELF-INFLICTED SHOTGUN BLAST.

A DIGEST SPOKESMAN TODAY SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW IF EPSTEIN WAS ABLE TO INTERVIEW NOSENKO; WHO IS STILL BELIEVED TO BE LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES.

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