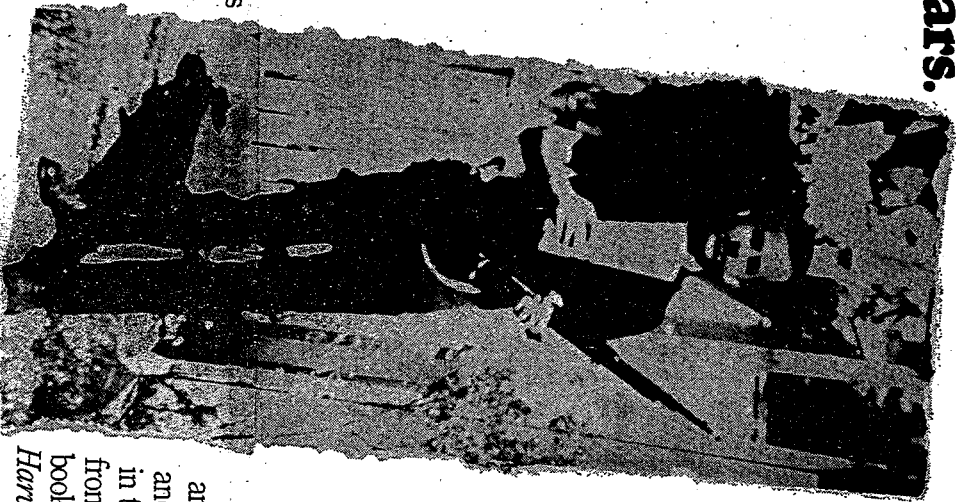


**This story has remained a state secret
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It is January 1964, barely six weeks after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Warren Commission is preparing to hold its first hearings. In Geneva, Switzerland, a KGB officer slips away from a Soviet trade delegation and contacts the CIA. He declares he has read the entire KGB file on Lee Harvey Oswald.



This month, in Reader's Digest, the answers to these and scores of other vital and penetrating questions will appear in the first of a two-part series, condensed from Edward Jay Epstein's explosive new book, *LEGEND: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald*.

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after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Warren Commission is preparing to hold its first hearings.

In Geneva, Switzerland, a KGB officer slips away from a Soviet trade delegation and contacts the CIA. He declares he has read the entire KGB file on Lee Harvey Oswald.

Who was this defector? Why did he beg for asylum in the United States? Why was it granted?

The Russian defector is brought to the United States. He says he is willing to testify before the Warren Commission. J. Edgar Hoover demands that the FBI take charge: his agents must control all debriefing about Oswald and the Kennedy assassination. What did the defector tell the FBI? What report did the FBI send to the Warren Commission? The CIA prepares questions for the Russian about Oswald's life in the U.S.S.R., and submits them to the FBI, which refuses to ask them.

Why?

Richard Helms, then in charge of covert operations at the CIA, requests a meeting with Chief Justice Earl Warren. There are no witnesses to the conference. And both men agree that the subject of their discussions—the defector—must remain secret.

Why?

The defector's testimony about Oswald is withheld from the members of the Warren Commission—even from the section assigned to examine Lee Harvey Oswald's life in the Soviet Union. Why?



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Epstein had the full backing and assistance of Digest editors and researchers. In all, they traveled some 150,000 miles and conducted more than 400 interviews in 26 states and 9 countries, pulling together the intriguing strands of Lee Harvey Oswald's life.

For the first time, you will learn why the Warren Commission interviewed only one man who knew Oswald during his Marine service (more than 80 were found and interviewed for this book); how Oswald had access to secret information that was then the KGB's highest priority target; and how Lee Harvey Oswald's name became a centerpiece in one of the most sensational—and hidden—intelligence cases of modern times.

LEGEND: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald is the most recent of many celebrated books conceived, prepared or supported by Reader's Digest. A few of the others: *Roots*, *The Longest Day*, *Why Jimmy Hoffa Had to Die*, *Centennial*, *Breach of Faith*, *Murder of a Gentle Land*, *The Right and the Power*.

Part I of *LEGEND: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald* appears exclusively in the March issue.

Now. In Reader's Digest.