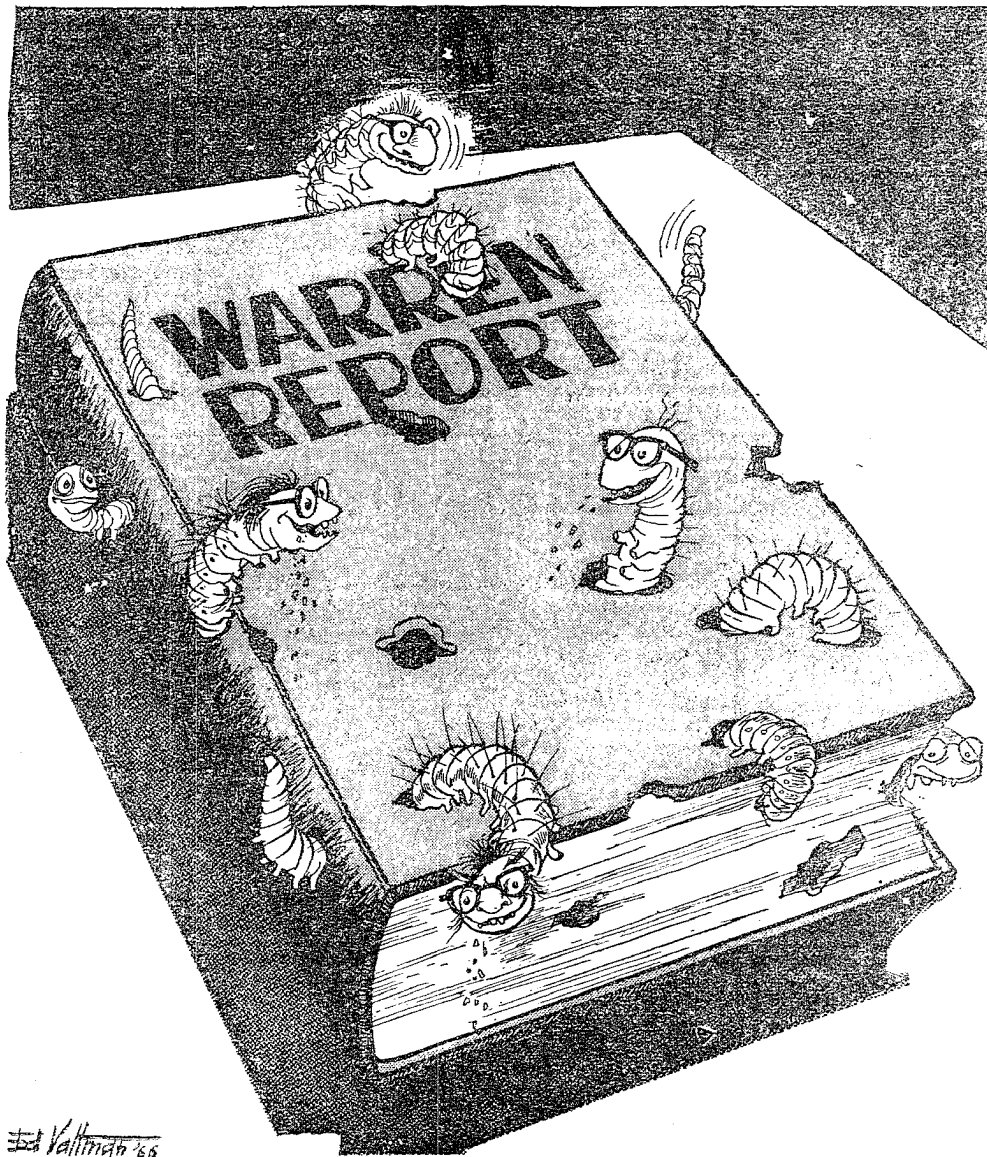


Bookworms!



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Allen-Scott Report

Warren Panel Sifted 'Mr. X'

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
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WASHINGTON — One of the most curious pieces of information uncovered by the Warren Commission during its investigation of President Kennedy's assassination was an extraordinary statement volunteered by a Russian.

This "Mr. X," seemingly nervous and uneasy, appeared unexpectedly at the U.S. embassy in Moscow some six months after the Dallas murder. To embassy officials, he claimed to have known Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife, Marina, when they lived in the Soviet.

In penciled notes the Russian left at the embassy, now among the more than 20,000 "working papers" given the National

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Archives by the Warren Commission, Oswald is linked to Jack Ruby, his slayer and the KGB, Soviet secret police.

These remarkable notes and covering correspondence and an analysis by embassy officials, were extensively censored by the State Department with the Warren Commission's approval. Name of the mysterious Russian described in the State Department correspondence as "a relatively pleasant looking man" was deleted as well as that of the embassy official who talked to him.

ALSO OMITTED was the date of the interview. The only reference to time is a notation in the State Department's "memorandum of conversation" that it took place in the "summer of 1961."

The Warren Commission attempted to get at the bottom of the Russian's strange story. Both the FBI and CIA dug into the matter, but with no success. The probes were unable to either confirm or disprove this perplexing information.

However, among the communist's records in the National Archives is an FBI report that Oswald corresponded with a KGB official in the Soviet embassy in Washington after returning to the U.S.

Also in the commission's records is a CIA document stating that the Soviet diplomat in Mexico City with whom Oswald had a meeting shortly before the assassination was the top KGB official in the embassy there.

ALL THE DOCUMENTS relating to this bizarre affair are in a separate commission file designated "Mr. X's File, No. 3106."

Following are the principal items in this file, consisting of the heavily censored notes left by the mysterious Russian, the State Department's correspondence and the report of the embassy official who talked to him. On the stationery of the embassy in Moscow, a one-page letter reads as follows — with the censored portions indicated by blank spaces:

"Dear . . .
"In sum . . . as a former acquaintance of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald in 1960 in Gorky: (1) maintained that Oswald knew Ruby, at least in 1960; (2) believed Oswald was under the influence of the KGB; (3) presumed Mrs. Oswald was a KGB agent and (4) said a group of people in the U.S., probably communists, helped in the assassination.

"We agree these are incredible statements but felt they must be passed on, and in this form, due to the sensitivity of the subject. Both . . . agree that . . . gave the appearance of being genuine. . . . It's conceivable that some of his statements might check out with information available in Washington but not here.

"He stuck to his story and never contradicted himself, although his tale was long and circuitous. He insisted that it all took place in Gorky, even though he knew the Oswalds had been in Byelorussia most of the time. This physical location might jibe with facts in the case but we can remember no connection with that city.

Sincerely yours,
AN ACCOUNT of the interview and impressions of "Mr. X" are contained in a document titled "Memorandum of Conversation," also extensively censored, as follows:

"On . . . was advised by . . . that a Soviet citizen . . . wished to make an important statement on who killed President Kennedy" . . .

" . . . was a relatively pleasant looking man, dressed in comparatively good Soviet clothes, fairly well-composed but justifiably nervous. He spoke very rapidly in good literate Russian. . . . He looked lost, but reconciled to his fate as he left. He spoke often about how the KGB knew of the information he had to impart. . . . He maintained, however, that the KGB had not contacted him in any way prior to his visit. He came, apparently from near Gorky where he now lives, to . . . on . . . and has been staying in a hotel.

"The interview took place . . .
"First, . . . nervously pulled out a slip of paper out of his pocket and asked the two officers to read the penciled contents. A translation follows and the original is attached with the first copy of his Memoon:

"I, Ruby is an old friend of Oswald, specialist in slimy (Mokrya) affairs.

"2. Oswald's wife — KGB agent (photograph).

"3. A group of people directly helped the assassination, probably they are USA communists. Now they are running from USA.

" . . . then set out 'to prove' the above statements:

"1. . . . knew Oswald in Gorky in April-May 1960. At the time the former lived in . . . near Gorky. . . . Oswald told him he was an old friend of Ruby's and he would help Oswald in the future, should he need it . . .
" . . . interchanged the name of Ruby and Rubenstein).

"2. . . . sister was a KGB agent. She was very close to Mrs. Oswald, before the Oswalds were married, and for a while they were roommates near Gorky. . . . therefore assumes Mrs. Oswald was also an agent.

"3. . . . Once Oswald invited . . . to go shooting. He refused, but in this meeting Oswald asked . . . what he thought would happen if the President of the U.S. was assassinated. At that time Eisenhower was President, but Oswald was talking in terms of the assassination of Nixon, whom he considered the probable next President. Oswald maintained there were groups in the U.S. who could carry this out. . . . assumed Oswald meant some socialist or radical group party, but the latter emphasized it was the Communist Party of the U.S.

"Following this 'proof' of his contentions, . . . gave background information on himself and more details on his association with Oswald and the KGB. . . .

"In answer to the question of what the aim was of an assassination plot against the President, . . . said it was to produce a reaction against the 'wild men' (beshtny) in the U.S."

ALSO in the "Mr. X" file is a short memorandum by a Warren Commission staff member stating that Sen. Richard Russ-

sell, D-Cal., one of the investigators, had read all of these documents.

Russell has made no secret that he feels Oswald's wife did not tell the commission all she knows about his activities and associations both in Russia and in the U.S. Russell has said he feels she should have been more vigorously grilled. During the inquiry he asked the State Department and CIA to seek more data on Oswald's stay in Russia.

There is no indication in the commission's records that it interrogated the U.S. official who conferred with the mysterious Russian in the Moscow embassy. Also no explanation for this omission.