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JFK Death Probe Witness Is Found Dead

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A witness contacted by the House Assassinations Committee in its investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination was found dead today of what police said appeared to be a self-inflicted shotgun wound.

The victim, George de Mohrenschildt of Dallas, Tex., a geologist who taught French at Bishop College, reportedly had been an acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife Marina.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Lt. Richard Sheets said there was "no reason to suspect anything other than suicide but the investigation is continuing."

The body of de Mohrenschildt, 65, was found by his daughter Alexandra, 33, in the guest room of a palatial oceanside home in exclusive Palm Beach. He and his daughter had arrived there from Brussels for a visit with relatives, Sheets said.

"At the time of the shooting, he was alone in the house except for two maids who said they did not hear the shot," Sheets said. He said the preliminary investigation showed the victim died of a head wound. A 20-gauge shotgun was found near the body.

Sheets said no suicide note was found.

Willem Oltmans, a Dutch journalist who has been interviewed by assassination committee investigators has said publicly that the Russian-born de Mohrenschildt told him in an interview he felt some responsibility for Kennedy's slaying.

It was not clear from the journalist's account whether de Mohrenschildt said anything other than that as an acquaintance of Oswald he felt he might have been able to stop the assassination in some way.