

Assertions About Oswald Confronting House Group

By MARTIN WALDRON
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WASHINGTON, April 3—Last Thursday, George de Mohrenschildt, a 65-year-old self-styled promoter who enjoyed the company of rich men and beautiful women and had a sometimes dangerous habit of sketching and photographing defense installations in various countries, was killed by a shotgun blast in Palm Beach, Fla.

His death, at the home of relatives of his daughter, Alexandra, was said by the police to be a suicide. Earlier, Mr. de Mohrenschildt had learned that a Congressional committee was prepared to investigate his connection with Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy. The following subsequent developments heightened public interest last week:

¶ A Dutch reporter, Willem Oltmans, appearing before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, quoted Mr. de Mohrenschildt as having said that he had arranged for Mr. Oswald to kill the President and that the assassination had been instigated by Texas oilmen, including the late billionaire H.L. Hunt of Dallas.

¶ A retired Texas newspaper editor, Penn Jones Jr., who has been fascinated by the Kennedy assassination for 13 years, released a copy of a letter to a "Mr. Hunt" asking for "information concerning my position." The letter, dated two weeks before President Kennedy was slain, was said to be from Mr. Oswald. The House committee must establish whether there is any relevance or truth to these allegations if it is, once and for all, to explain President Kennedy's assassination and the 1968 murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

Hundreds of people claim a knowledge of the two murders. There have been allegations that President Kennedy and Dr. King were killed by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, jealous husbands, Cubans, Vietnamese, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, gangsters, Texas oilmen and munitions makers.

Official investigations found that Mr. Oswald, acting alone, shot President Kennedy for complex personal reasons, and that James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, also acting alone and also for personal reasons, killed Dr. King.

Since its establishment last September, the special House committee has spent about \$350,000. Staff members told the committee last month that there were "promising" new leads, but neither the de Mohrenschildt accusations nor the Hunt letter is new. None of the other "leads" described at a secret committee meeting appear to be new, either.

The "Hunt letter" first became known in the summer of 1975. A number of assassination students, most of them private citizens, got copies of it in the mail from Mexico City.

The letter has excited some interest in the last few days because Justice Department sources said the F.B.I. had confirmed that the letter was in Mr. Oswald's handwriting.

The 39-word letter was dated Nov. 8, 1963, two weeks before Mr. Kennedy was slain. Mr. Oswald was living in Dallas and working at the Texas Schoolbook Depository.

The letter said: "Dear Mr. Hunt, I would like information concerning my position. I am asking only for information. I am suggesting that we discuss the matter more fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else. Thank you. Lee Harvey Oswald."

Mr. Jones said he received a photocopy of the handwritten letter in August or September, 1975, at his home in Midlothian, Texas, where he once ran a prize-winning weekly newspaper, The Midlothian Mirror.

Accompanying the photocopy was a typewritten note in Spanish, saying that the sender, who signed himself "P.S.," had sent a photocopy of the letter to the F.B.I. in late 1974 and had not heard from the bureau.

"Senor P.S.," as he became known, also

*Dear Mr. Hunt,
I would like information
concerning my position.
I am asking only for information
I am suggesting that we discuss the
matter fully before any steps are
taken by me or anyone else.
Thank you,
Lee Harvey Oswald*

Copy of letter reportedly written by Lee Harvey Oswald to a "Mr. Hunt" two weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy.

wrote that he feared something might happen to him and that he was going into hiding for a time. On the back of the envelope containing the photocopy and the note was a return address: "Insurgentes Sud, No. 309, Mexico, Df, Mexico."

Number 309 South Insurgentes in Mexico City is a four-story white stone apartment house containing a number of lower-middle-class flats. On the first floor of the building are two low-quality clothing stores and a small shop selling national lottery tickets.

Mr. Jones said that he gave his copy of the "Hunt letter" to The Dallas Morning News last month. The newspaper reported that it had had the letter analyzed by three independent handwriting experts who, like the F.B.I., concluded that it had been written by Mr. Oswald. The experts said they had compared the letter with others known to have been written by Oswald.

There was no indication of how "Senor P.S." had come into possession of the

Oswald letter.

Harold Weisberg of Frederick, Md., a former Senate investigator who has devoted the past 12 years to researching the Kennedy and King murders, said he got a copy of the letter in the mail in August 1975, as did Howard Roffman of Gainesville, Fla., a law school graduate.

Letters Unanswered

Mr. Weisberg and Mr. Jones said they had written the address on the envelope and had not received answers, though their letters were not returned as undelivered.

The family of Mr. Hunt, who died Nov. 29, 1974, has protested published assertions that the letter was written to him.

In 1964, the F.B.I. checked the Hunt family in connection with the Kennedy assassination, but no member of the family testified before the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, which investigated the assassination. Several of Mr. Hunt's sons have called "ridiculous" the notion that any of the Hunts had been connected with the murder.

An associate of the Hunt family said yesterday that H.L. Hunt and members of his family "are not the only Hunts around."

"Wasn't there a Hunt connected with the C.I.A. back in 1963?" he asked.

There has been no evidence linking E. Howard Hunt, a C.I.A. agent who was involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, to Mr. Oswald. Mr. Hunt has just been released from Federal prison; he had been convicted of complicity in the burglary of the Democratic National Committee Headquarters at the

Watergate Hotel in Washington in 1972.

The Oswald "Hunt letter" aroused still more interest after Mr. de Mohrenschildt's death, when Mr. Oltmans came forward to say publicly that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had linked H.L. Hunt to Mr. Oswald.

Relatives and associates of Mr. de Mohrenschildt said he was hospitalized recently for treatment of mental disorders, including paranoia, and tried to kill himself several times previously.

The House Assassinations Committee had heard part of the de Mohrenschildt story from Mr. Oltmans last month and had been searching for him to ask him to testify.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt died after he learned last week that a committee investigator had gone to Palm Beach to talk to him.

The authorities in the Florida city said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had left a number of personal papers but that none of them seemed to be connected in any way to Mr. Oswald or the Kennedy administration.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt's daughter, Alexandra Taylor, whom he was visiting at the time of his death, said her father was "mentally and physically afraid" of Mr. Oltmans.

The Texan had gone to Amsterdam with Mr. Oltmans earlier last month. He tried to sell a book manuscript on the Kennedy slaying and appeared on television with Mr. Oltmans there.

"He felt he had been drugged in Am-

sterdam," Mrs. Taylor said. She also reported that her father had been mentally ill recently.

Treated for Paranoia

Other associates of Mr. de Mohrenschildt reported that he was treated for paranoia for some weeks in Dallas earlier this year. He was a teacher at a small school in Dallas, Bishop College.

During his adventurous life, Mr. de Mohrenschildt had many careers: perfume salesman, oil geologist, polo player, Polish cavalry officer, movie producer and,

many believed, spy.

At one point in World War II, Mr. de Mohrenschildt was suspected of spying by both the United States and Mexico and was detained and questioned in both countries.

The United States incident came after he and Lilia Pardo Larin, then his mistress, were observed photographing and sketching the beachfront near Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt told the Warren Commission in April 1964 that he had not realized the area he was sketching had defense fortifications. He said he resented having been considered a German spy.

Later in World War II he was expelled from Mexico, but he said that was because a high-ranking Mexican official wanted to steal Mrs. Larin from him, that it had no connection with his being suspected of espionage.

In 1957, soldiers fired on Mr. De Mohrenschildt and his fourth wife, Jeanne, as they sketched and took photographs of a Yugoslav beach while sitting in a boat. "The little island we thought was completely empty, not a soul on it, they had fortifications on that island," Mrs. de Mohrenschildt told the Warren Commission.

The de Mohrenschildts testified before the commission after they had been investigated for weeks by dozens of F.B.I. agents.

The commission was interested in the de Mohrenschildts because they were friendly with the Oswalds. The de Mohrenschildts said they had met the Oswalds through the Russian-speaking community in Dallas and had felt sorry for Marina Oswald, whom Mr. Oswald met and married while in Russia in the early 1960's.

In April 1963, the de Mohrenschildts went to Haiti, where he tried to promote a deal with the government of the late President Francois Duvalier to search for oil and minerals. They were still living in Haiti when Mr. Kennedy was killed.

The Warren Commission and the F.B.I. concluded that there was no evidence to suggest that the de Mohrenschildts had had any connection with the assassination.

Mr. De Mohrenschildt told the commission that he was not sure Mr. Oswald had killed President Kennedy and that Mr. Oswald had not seemed inclined to political violence. Mr. de Mohrenschildt told the commission:

"In my opinion, if Lee Oswald did kill the President, this might be the reason for it: That he was insanely jealous of an extraordinarily successful man, who was young, attractive, had a beautiful wife, had all the money in the world and was a world figure. And poor Oswald was just the opposite. He had nothing. He had a bitchy wife, had no money, was a miserable failure in everything he did."

An accidentally released transcript of a secret meeting of the House Assassination Committee on March 17 disclosed that much of the information the committee "uncovered" in its six months of operation has been available for years.