

On the face of it, Oswald was now an authentic defector and a traitor to his country. But was it as simple as that? One of the American consular officials, John McVicker, noticed something puzzling about Oswald, and felt, "...he was following a pattern of behaviour in which he had been tutored by a person or persons unknown...seemed to be using words he had learned, but did not fully understand...in short, it seemed to me there was a possibility that he had been in contact with others before or during his Marine Corps tour who had guided him and encouraged him in his actions."

McVicker's reaction was identical with that of the Dallas officials who would one day interview Oswald on suspicion of assassinating President Kennedy. In 1978, the consul told me he still has the same nagging feeling, that Oswald's performance at the embassy was not spontaneous. But if McVicker was right, what "person or persons unknown" had coached Oswald?

On a first assessment of young Oswald's behaviour, the easy answer is that he had been in contact with communist agents in Japan or the United States, and that he defected at their urging. ~~Perhaps so, but that may not have been Oswald's only connection with the secret world. Take a second look, and the picture blurs.~~