

Oswald - Agent

POWERS BOOK

Oswald Role in U-2 Spy Incident Claimed

NEW YORK (AP)—Francis Gary Powers says information supplied by Lee Harvey Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, may have made it possible for the Russians to shoot down his U-2 spy plane in 1960.

Powers was captured and imprisoned by the Russians after parachuting from his plane which had been shot down. He was released in 1962 in exchange for Rudolf Abel, convicted in the United States of spying for the Soviet Union.

The story of Powers' experience is told in "Operation Overflight," a book to be published May 1. Some newspapers on Sunday published the first installment of a serialization of the book.

The Pentagon had no comment.

Oswald, a former Marine radar operator, defected to Russia in October, 1959, and that same month appeared at the U.S. Embassy and announced his intention to renounce his U.S. citizenship.

- Powers notes that Os-

wald, according to the Warren Report on Kennedy's assassination, told the American diplomats he had offered to give the Russians any information he had on Marine Corps operations "and intimated that he might know something of special interest."

Powers says in the book it is "tantalizing" that one document among the Warren Commission papers in the National Archives, No. 931, dated May 13, 1964, remains classified as top secret—a document entitled "Oswald's Access to Information About the U-2."

Powers says Oswald, when he was assigned to Marine air control radar units at Atsugi, Japan, and El Toro, Calif., had access to radar and radio codes and to the then-new MPS 16 height finding radar equipment.

This equipment could locate planes at the very high altitudes at which the U-2 flew, and Powers indicates he believes the Russians did not have the height-finding radar before Oswald went to the Soviet Union.