

4/25/70

Dear Ed,

Thanks for your letter of the 24th and the clipping on the Gentry fiction- which is what the parts troubling you are.

Toward the end of his preparation of this ghosting, Gentry phoned me. We went into this and he left me with the impression he was satisfied this was an impossibility, was unnecessary and was entirely illogical. He promised me a set of galleys and a copy of the book. I have received neither.

But if Gentry is sincere and has anything over and above his suspicions, it can come from only the CIA, which should be enough to cast him in a special role. Powers, obviously, could have no such knowledge.

I explained to him this "special interest" business as the record shows it, not this contrived sales pitch. IHO's knowledge of codeword methods, devices, etc.

Document 931 is misquoted, thus making it more "tempting". He leaves out the word "classified" relating to information.

The next paragraph reflects faithful reproduction of what I told him in this regard. I now see you knew about "classified". I read your letter earlier and now respond when I have time.

Do not worry about this. The public is so systematically misinformed, another will make no great difference. Worry, instead, about the state of a society in which such writing is given the widest distribution, syndication having already begun, while solid works can not get printed.

Sincerely,

Did Oswald Tip Reds on U-2?

Former U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers says information supplied by Lee Harvey Oswald may have enabled the Russians to shoot down his spy plane in 1960.

Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the as-

sassin of President Kennedy, defected to Russia in October, 1959. He had served with the U. S. Marine Corps and may have known the U-2's altitude capability.

The Pentagon had no immediate comment.

Powers parachuted from his damaged plane and was captured and imprisoned by the Russians. He was released in 1962 in exchange for convicted Soviet spy Rudolf Abel.

Book Coming Out

Powers' autobiography "Operation Overflight," will be published May 1 by Holt, Rinehart & Winston. Some newspapers are serializing the book.

The same month he defected, Oswald appeared at the U.S. Embassy and announced his intention to renounce his U.S. citizenship.

Powers notes that the Warren Report on the Kennedy assassination said Oswald told the American diplomats that he had offered to give the Russians any information he had on Marine operations "and intimated that he might know something of special interest."

Powers says in his book

that it is "fantasizing" that among the Warren Commission papers, Document No. 931, dated May 13, 1964, entitled "Oswald's Access to Information about the U-2," remains classified top secret.

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

Powers also notes that while El Toro was not a U2 base, "U-2s frequently flew over this portion of South-

ern California."

Testimony before the Warren Commission said Oswald had received instruction in MPS height-finding radar gear and that some codes and signals were changed after Oswald's defection. But there would have been no way to offset the basic instruction Oswald had received.

The MPS equipment could track planes at very high altitudes such as those used by the U-2, Powers indicates that he believes The Russians did not have such capability before Oswald defected.

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4/24/70

Dear Harold,

The enclosed article is extremely disturbing if the reader grasps its implications.

Mr Powers, a CIA employee, tries to portray Lee Oswald as an informer whose traitorous acts destroyed The Summit Conference.

But if this is accepted as true, what interpretations are possible?

Only two.

Oswald was either acting on his own or as an intelligence agent.

Upon his return The United States not only took no punitive action

against him but they made
strong representations of
The State Department to permit
the entry of his wife!

In other words,
U.S. Intelligence Condoned
Oswald's actions in
ending the hopes of a
detente at "The Spirit of
Camp David."

Of course, "C.D. 931"
remains "classified" and
"C.E. 917," a telegram which
describes Oswald as
"former Marine and ----"
has been deleted.

Sincerely,

Robert Williams