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Associated Press  
Willem Oltmans, left, a Dutch journalist, conferring with Representative Richardson Preyer before House Assassinations Committee hearing yesterday.

## WITNESS TIES OSWALD TO OILMEN AND CUBANS

Newsman Tells Panel That Suicide  
Had Related Conspiracy Story

By WENDELL RAWLS Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 1—A Dutch journalist said today he had told the House Assassinations Committee that the mysterious potential witness who allegedly committed suicide Tuesday had told him that Texas oilmen and anti-Castro Cubans had conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald to kill President Kennedy.

Willem Oltmans, a television newsman, was called before the panel after he said in various morning press and television interviews that the alleged conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy involved not only Mr. Oswald but also George de Mohrenschildt, who apparently shot himself in Palm Beach, Fla.; the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, H. L. Hunt, the late Texas oil millionaire, and Mr. Oswald's assassin, Jack Ruby.

### Found Him 'Very Specific'

Mr. Oltmans also gave hearsay testimony that there may have been a \$50,000 contract out to kill Mr. Kennedy. He said he had met an oil worker who said he had been offered the contract.

After Mr. Oltmans testified, Representative Richardson Preyer, Democrat of North Carolina who is chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Kennedy assassination, was asked if he believed Mr. Oltmans's story.

"Ask me that question again in a few months," Mr. Preyer replied. "Mr. Oltmans was very specific on some things which can be corroborated, but not as clear on others."

An F.B.I. spokesman said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had "been interviewed extensively by the F.B.I. and testified before the Warren Commission and all of his information was not pertinent to the assassination." He added:

"All the information coming from Mr. Oltmans about Mr. de Mohrenschildt is all new to us and probably all new to reality."

A source in the F.B.I. said that Mr.

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de Mohrenschildt had attempted suicide four times in the past six months before succeeding last Tuesday.

The committee met two weeks ago to discuss ways of winning enough Congressional and public support of its inquiry to keep the committee alive. Some of the methods discussed were public hearings featuring truculent witnesses and secret briefings that could generate publicity.

### Declines to Disclose Evidence

Mr. Oltmans, who testified for three hours in closed session, later declined to tell newsmen what evidence he had to support his claim. But he said that he and Mr. de Mohrenschildt had been friends for about 10 years and that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had said he was a middle-man between Mr. Oswald and Mr. Hunt. He said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt told him that Cubans shot at Mr. Kennedy at the same time that Mr. Oswald did.

A spokesman for Ruth Hunt, Mr. Hunt's widow, his youngest son, Ray Hunt, and the Hunt estate said: "Any allegations by Willem Oltmans that H.L. Hunt was involved with Mr. de Mohrenschildt or Oswald in any way are figments of a strained and distorted imagination. It is ludicrous to state that H.L. Hunt had anything to do with the assassination of President Kennedy."

Mr. Oltmans said that he had given the assassination committee "the name of an F.B.I. official, not [the late director J. Edgar] Hoover, who might be important," and that he had given it a taped interview in which a Cuban exile named Loran Hall says he was offered \$50,000 in the office of a Dallas oilman, Lester Logue, to kill President Kennedy.

Mr. Logue called the allegation "ridiculous," and said he would meet with his lawyers to discuss suing Mr. Oltmans for libel. He called Mr. Oltmans a "publicity psychopath," and said, "This just demonstrates the absolute power that the media has to destroy somebody without recourse."

The theory of Mr. Hunt's involvement has been advanced before but has never been corroborated. A spokesman for the Hunt family and estate said that they "have finally had about enough of such charges."

"It has been publicly recorded that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had a history of mental problems," the spokesman said. "In fact Mr. de Mohrenschildt ever claimed to have had any relationship with H. L. Hunt, those claims must be viewed accordingly."

The commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren that investigated President Kennedy's assassination in 1963 concluded that Mr. Oswald was the lone assassin.

Earlier today, Mr. Oltmans said in an NBC radio interview that the reason the Cubans wanted to kill President Kennedy was that "they thought they had a blood debt to settle—they thought that President Kennedy had betrayed them at the Bay of Pigs." He said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had told him he never knew, in fact, who killed Mr. Kennedy because an unspecified number of Cubans were supposed to be shooting at the same time Mr. Oswald did.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt, who was born in Russia, reportedly befriended Mr. Oswald and his wife, Marina, before the assassination. Mrs. Oswald also was Russian-born.

Mr. Oltmans said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had told him that Mr. Oswald had acted at Mr. de Mohrenschildt's guidance and instructions.

"Mr. de Mohrenschildt indicated to me very strongly that his ties upwards were towards H.L. Hunt and downwards to Lee Harvey Oswald," Mr. Oltmans said in an ABC television interview.

WITNESS TIES OSWALD  
TO OILMEN AND CUBANS



# Are There New Leads?

For the much battered House Select Committee on Assassinations, the deal was simple enough. In return for jettisoning abrasive chief counsel Richard Sprague, the panel last week won a new two-year charter to investigate the murders of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. But its vote of confidence in the House (by 230 to 181) was soon overshadowed by controversy over the committee's alleged new evidence in the assassinations—and the sudden suicide of a man one panel member called “a crucial witness for us, based on new information.”

Like most leaks from the committee over the past seven months, last week's disclosures seemed more tantalizing than substantial—more likely to promote public interest and votes for the committee than to resolve unanswered questions about the two murders. The suicide, for example, was a Russian immigrant—and recent mental patient—named George de Mohrenschildt who had known Lee Harvey Oswald before the Kennedy murder but only recently told a foreign journalist that he felt “responsible” for Oswald's behavior. The journalist said de Mohrenschildt claimed that a conspiracy of anti-Castro Cubans and Texas oilmen, including the late millionaire H.L. Hunt, had actually arranged Kennedy's death. But the newsman conceded at one point that de Mohrenschildt also told him that he had made the whole story up, and de Mohrenschildt apparently killed himself with a 20-gauge shotgun almost immediately after learning that committee investigators wanted to question him about it.

The panel's major achievement to date has been simply staying alive through

months of internal friction and external criticism. Following a nasty clash between chief counsel Sprague and Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas—in which most other panel members backed Sprague (NEWSWEEK, Feb. 21)—Gonzalez resigned as chairman. But his replacement by Rep. Louis Stokes of Ohio did not end the committee's crisis of confidence. At a March 17 secret session, according to a transcript apparently released by accident, members talked about the need for “choreography” and a “scenario” of public disclosures to maintain support for their work. And last week, members decided that their survival demanded that they dump Sprague, a tough Philadelphia prosecutor who alienated many House members.

**'Shocking':** News reports of de Mohrenschildt's death also may have helped swing the vote, following as it did the violent deaths of two other witnesses—underworld figures Sam Giancana and John Rosselli—who had been called to the Hill in connection with the Kennedy assassination. Chairman Stokes said de Mohrenschildt was crucial to the Kennedy investigation, despite the fact that his “shocking confession”—as Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans called it—followed a stay in the psychiatric wing at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas last fall and winter.

De Mohrenschildt was hardly a new figure in the Kennedy case. As a member of the Dallas Russian-émigré community in the early 1960s, the Warren Commis-



De Mohrenschildt and wife: A crucial witness?

sion said, de Mohrenschildt befriended Oswald and his Russian wife, Marina; but he said he was threatened by Oswald after helping Marina to leave him at one point. The commission reported that it found no evidence of involvement by de Mohrenschildt in the Kennedy murder, nor any proof that he was a government agent (some sources suggest that de Mohrenschildt's wide-ranging travels as a petroleum engineer were a CIA cover). The commission's files also contain a letter from de Mohrenschildt to Jacqueline Kennedy's mother—Janet Auchincloss, whom he had met years before—that expressed “lingering doubt, notwithstanding all the evidence, of Oswald's guilt.”

**'Blood Debt':** This was a far cry from the account by journalist Oltmans, who told various television interviewers—and then the House committee—that de Mohrenschildt had confessed that he was part of a “Dallas conspiracy” of oilmen, a trucking-company executive and Cubans with “a blood debt to settle—they thought President Kennedy had betrayed them at the Bay of Pigs.” “His ties upwards were toward H.L. Hunt directly . . . and downstairs they were going to Lee Harvey Oswald,” Oltmans said, adding that de Mohrenschildt admitted Oswald “acted at his guidance and instructions.” Oltmans said that de Mohrenschildt had also named Jack Ruby and a number of CIA and FBI officials in connection with the conspiracy, and added that these and many other details would be found in the manuscript for a book that the dead man had left with his lawyer in Dallas. But he also told some interviewers that de Mohren-



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**'Give us one more round, barkeep—we, the House assassinations committee, have decided on unity!'**