Oct. 12, 1967
New York Times

# OSWALD A LONER, RESEARCHER SAYS

## 3-Year Study Contends He Conspired Against Himself

By MARTIN ARNOLD

If there was any conspiracy in Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of President Kennedy, the Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine says, it was "Oswald as a conspirator against his own parents, his own family — against himself."

An article in the October issue of the Bulletin, "Lee Harvey Oswald: Psychological Capability of Murder," holds that Oswald was led to murder by a lifetime of feeling rejected, first because his father died before he was born, and then because he had an uprooted childhood.

Researched for three years, the article was written by Dr. David Abrahamsen, a governor of the Center for the Study of Violence at Brandeis University and psychiatric and medical director of the Foundation for the Prevention of Addictive Diseases.

### Vengeance Against Parents

In an interview this week Dr. Abrahamsen said that such a person as Oswald "was unable to be a part of a conspiracy."

Rather, he had to act out, "by himself in secret," his vengeance against his parents, his country, his wife, and even the Soviet Union, which had refused him citizenship.

In the article Dr. Abrahamsen pictures Oswald as being almost the classic murderer—intensely vengeful, lonely and feeling rejected, living a fantasy life, unable to withstand frustration, an antisocial background, a tendency toward suicide and toward plasticity in self-identification.

"His problems began early, in a sense before he was born," Dr. Abrahamsen writes. "His father's sudden death two months before Lee's birth in New Orleans on Oct. 18, 1939, and his mother's subsequent financial difficulties were the beginning of a disrupted infancy and childhood that were to have far reaching consequences."

### Withdrawn and Lonely

The withdrawn and lonely boyhood, his being shunted from relative to relative and between couples and babysitters, his sleeping throughout most of his childhood in the same bed as his mother—all this, Dr. Abrahamsen says, left him a solitary figure, "craving to be in the limelight." At the same time he was filled with feelings "of guilt, revulsion and fear of being devoured."

In an interview this week the psychiatrist said that such a person as Oswald "was unable to be part of a conspiracy," that he had to act out his vengeance against his parents, his country, his wife and even the Soviet Union, which had refused him citizenship, "by himself in secret."

Of criminals in general, Dr. Abrahamsen writes that when one "commits his crime, it is invariably founded on his feeling that he must show his mother he is not insignificant and is able to take revenge upon her for rejecting him."

"The prime mark of the murderer," the psychiatrist adds, "is a sense of helpless impotence and a preoccupation with revenge, carried over from childhood."

In Oswald's case, Dr. Abrahamsen found all these factors present.