

to do whatever he wanted without interference. When he was interviewed with, he considered it a personal affront and often took his complaint to a higher authority. He believed that what he was doing was right, even when his actions were "illegal." Thus, for example, he could threaten to give away military secrets in one breath and charge that his legal right to expatriate himself was being denied him in the next—and tell the American ambassador he was going to ask his new government to lodge a formal protest. After deciding to leave Russia, he expected the Americans to do everything they could to help him. In his logic, there was no inconsistency in any of this. Since he was always right, anyone who opposed him was wrong.

On that weekend there was a crisis in South Vietnam. On November 2 an army coup ousted President Diem, and Diem and his brother were assassinated. At home, a front page Morning News headline on November 4 announced, "President in Dallas." The story said that the president was tentatively scheduled to attend a noon luncheon in Dallas on November 21 or 22.

On November 5, Hosty passed through Irving with another agent en route to Fort Worth and stopped by to speak briefly with Ruth. She still hadn't found out Oswald's address in Oak Cliff, but she told him that when the Oswalds moved into an apartment again, as she expected, she would be perfectly willing to give him that address. During their conversation Ruth commented that she thought Oswald was a Trotskyite. When Hosty asked her if she thought this was a mental problem, Ruth said that she didn't understand the mental processes of a Marxist, but that "this was far different from saying he was mentally unstable or unable to conduct himself in normal society." Ruth later testified, "I was not at all worried about ideology contrary to my own or with which I disagreed, and it looked to me that he was a person of this ideology or philosophy which he calls Marxism, indeed nearly a religion," but that she didn't think him dangerous because of these beliefs.

While Ruth was speaking with Hosty, Marina slipped out the back door and memorized the license number of his car. She had also overheard and understood a part of their conversation. Ruth testified that during that day or the next, while they were doing dishes, Marina told her "she felt their address was their business. . . and she made it plain that this was a matter of privacy for them. This surprised me. She had never spoken to me this way before, and I didn't see that it made any difference."

When Oswald returned to Irving on Friday the 8th, he was greeted

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with the unwelcome news of Hosty's return visit. When Ruth told him Hosty had asked if this was a mental problem Lee "gave no reply but more a scoffing laugh, hardly voiced." He said, "They are trying to inhibit my activities." Ruth replied, "You have your rights to your views, whether they are popular or not." She was thinking in terms of his handing out pamphlets or expressing a belief in Fidel Castro. But privately she also thought that with his background as a defector he ought to expect the FBI to be interested in him. She suggested that he go see Hosty and tell him whatever he wanted to know. Of course, this was exactly what he could not do. But he said that he had stopped at the downtown office of the FBI and left a note.

The front-page story that day was again the president's trip to Dallas. Two luncheon sites, one of them the Trade Mart, were under consideration, but no parades were yet being planned.

Years later, Hosty's receptionist, Nanny Lee Fenner, recalled that Oswald had come into the FBI office on Commerce Street two or three weeks before the assassination. He looked "fidgety" and asked to speak with Hosty. Informed that he wasn't in, Oswald handed her a business-size envelope with the word "Hosty" written on it and walked out. Hosty later admitted that he had destroyed the note inside after Oswald's death, on orders from his Dallas superior, J. Gordon Shanklin. Shanklin was evidently concerned that the note would suggest that the FBI hadn't kept a careful enough eye on the president's assassin. In 1975 Hosty told the Church committee that the unsigned note read, roughly:

If you have anything you want to learn about me, come talk to me directly. If you don't cease bothering my wife, I will take appropriate action and report this to proper authorities.

Hosty put the note in his workbook, where it remained until the day of the assassination.

On Saturday the 9th Oswald borrowed Ruth's typewriter to compose a letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington. It was a characteristic mixture of guile and ingratiatio.

This is to inform you of recent events since my meetings with comrade KOSTIN in the Embassy of the Soviet Union, Mexico City, Mexico. I was unable to remain in Mexico indefinitely because of my Mexican visa restrictions which was for 15 days only. I could not take a chance on requesting a new visa unless I used my real name, so I returned to

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After converting to Marxism, Oswald's conscious motives were political. He considered his defection to be a courageous protest against American military imperialism. His explanation for attacking Walker was also ideological: he would be eliminating a potential Hitler, thereby saving lives. Each time, he expected to be recognized as a fighter for justice. But his inner compulsions were the same as they had been. On learning that the Walker bullet had missed, he was disappointed, but Marina believed that he was also pleased "with the clever fellow he was" in getting away with the attempt. He had put one over on the police.

Strip away the politics, and Oswald's antisocial personality is evident. He resembles the typical St. Elizabeths criminal seeking power, control, and excitement. At Youth House he had been diagnosed as a "passive-aggressive" individual, someone whose outward compliance masked deep anger. This characteristic shows up in his political writings, where Oswald cast himself as a silent observer who waited in "stoical readiness" for the opportune moment to act.

This complex of motivations reverbated in the Kennedy assassination. It would be a violent protest against American imperialism toward Cuba and a retaliation for the plots against Castro. But beneath Oswald's rationalizations, there was a continuing self-aggrandizement and a desire for vengeance that came from something other than politics.

Each of these incidents was also derived, in some way, from Oswald's reading of press reports. His ideas were never entirely original. Oswald's defection was preceded by that of Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, a famous case that Oswald alluded to in a conversation with Nelson Delgado. It wasn't so much that news stories "put ideas in his head." It was almost the other way around: Oswald's grandiose self-image drove him to project himself onto the world stage. The international political scene was the reality that mattered to him, and he was determined to make his mark on it.

As each of his efforts was frustrated, Oswald's schemes became progressively more violent. His defection resulted in a week's publicity and two and a half years of obscurity. The Walker incident gained only a brief, anonymous attention. Then his plan to reach Cuba was thwarted by red tape—moreover, the Cubans didn't take him seriously. His repeated attempts to join a revolutionary movement had failed, leaving him as isolated and unrecognized as ever.

After Oswald returned to Dallas in October 1963, events continued

to narrow his path. His perception of the plots against Castro had already led him to threaten President Kennedy's life on two occasions. On October 19th, a double feature about assassinations reminded him of "the actual situation" that existed in Cuba. The following evening his preoccupation was such that he didn't think to ask about the birth of his second child.

Having failed to get Russian visas, Oswald was stranded in Dallas. He made plans to renew his political activities. By "reading between the lines" of leftist newspapers, he would determine which line to follow. But in November there were new developments. His visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico had understandably reawakened the FBI's interest in him. Cornered, feeling unjustly persecuted, Oswald wrote a note to Hostly and a letter to the Soviets in Washington protesting the FBI attention. At this juncture, he learned that the president's motorcade would pass the building where he worked.

It must have seemed to him that fate had spoken. All his past life was a rehearsal for the moment when he decided to act out his violent fantasies against President Kennedy. After his arrest, Oswald appeared calm, introspective, at peace with himself. He behaved as if he were now in control—as, in a real sense, he was, until Jack Ruby's own obsessions intervened. At long last, Oswald had achieved what he had always wanted: vengeance power, and even an infamous immortality.

The assassination of John Kennedy was neither an act of random violence nor a conspiracy. It was carried out as a result of Oswald's character and background interacting with circumstance. It's likely that had there been no plots against Castro, Oswald would have eventually killed someone, but it would not have been President Kennedy. Castro's warning had simply deflected his aim.

if she had addressed the actual facts of the crime she would not have said this

No source, not true in any way.

272... Oswald's Game

Notes... 273

268.

Note 1: Hosty's receptionist claimed that the note was partly visible inside the unsealed envelope and that it contained a threat to blow up the FBI and Dallas Police Department, but this is unlikely. Hosty said the note was folded so that the writing couldn't be seen, and it would have been uncharacteristic of Oswald to put an incriminating statement on paper. Hosty's version also sounds more like Oswald, who frequently took his complaints to "proper authorities." Finally, Hosty's reaction—putting the note aside—suggests that Oswald made no violent threat.

268-269. Letter to Soviet Embassy: XVI, 33; III, 13; WR, 309-311.

270. Oswald's knowledge of Azcuer's replacement: Newman, 495; WR, 310; XXV, 817 (October 15 letter from Cuba regarding Oswald's visa, addressed to Alfredo Mirabal, consul of Cuba).
Martina unaware of new visa request: McMillan, 506.

270.

Note 2: In an earlier, handwritten draft Oswald had written, "The agent also 'suggested' that my wife could remain in the U.S. under FBI protection," that is, she could refuse to return to the—" The last five words were crossed out and the sentence completed with "defect from the Soviet Union." Oswald clearly felt that Hosty's routine assurances to Martina somehow threatened his plans to send her back to Russia. Ruth discovered this draft lying on her desk on November 9 (III, 13-18, 51-52; WR, 309). Puzzled and disturbed by its contents, she made a copy, intending to show it to Hosty if he returned.

271. Trip to shopping center, Oswald's mood: III, 14; IX, 391, 394.
Oswald asked not to return on weekend, Learner's permit application: I, 63; II, 515-517.

272. Martina's attempt to call Oswald: III, 43-44.

272-273. November 18 argument over alias: I, 46; III, 45; McMillan, 516-517.

273-274. President's Miami speech: Newman, 509; Summers, 425; 423.

274. Newspapers' coverage of speech and motorcade route: XXVI, 69; Newman, 511.

274-275. Marina on Oswald's failure to call: III, 45-46.

275. Hunting rifle in Truly's office: McMillan, 519; VII, 381-382, 387-388.
Conversation with Frazier: II, 222.

Ruth on Oswald's arrival: III, 46-48.

276. Oswald's activities at Ruth's house: McMillan, 521, 523-525.

276-276A. President Kennedy in Fort Worth: Bishop, 25, 28, 61; Manchester, 114, 121, 137; VII, 455.

276B. Oswald on his way to shoot Walker?: Newman, 47-49.

276B.

Note 3: There are other theories about where Oswald was headed. Commission lawyer David Belin believes that he was en route to a street at which he could have caught a bus to Mexico (Belin, 425-428). Congressman Harold Sawyer of the Assassinations Committee believes that Oswald was on his way to the home of an individual identified by the Dallas press as a Communist party defector who had helped the FBI destroy the Party in Texas. The news story had appeared on the same page as articles about John Abt defending Communists in New York and the president's proposed visit to Dallas. The informant's home was two blocks farther up the street in the direction Oswald was walking when Tippitt stopped him (HACR, 673-674).

276B. Oswald seen by shoe store manager: VII, 3-4.

CHAPTER 15. THE ARREST

277. Seth Kantor's reaction: XX, 410.

AM/LASH meeting with case officer: Book V, 19-20.

277-78. Castro's statements: Daniel, "When Castro Heard the News."

278. Michael Paine's reactions: McMillan, 540-541.

Oswald's arrest: VII, 40, 52, 73; VII 54 (crowd); VII 41, 99 (in police car); Belin, 27.

279. Fritz on Oswald's answers: IV, 239.

Other questioners' impressions: XXIV, 839, 844; VII, 135.

Oswald discusses political beliefs: WR, 610; IV, 224.

Oswald apprised of rights, declines lawyer: IV, 216.

FBI agents join questioning: IV, 209, 210.

Oswald meets Hosty: IV, 210, 466-467.

279-80. Hosty realizes note was from Oswald: HACR, 245.

280. Oswald's statements on rifle, whereabouts, and pistol: WR, 619; XI, 613; WR, 181.

Denial he was in Mexico City: IV, 210.

Witnesses identify Oswald: WR, 166.

Concealment of Neely Street address: WR, 617.

281. Oswald at press conference: IV, 166; Newman, 547. Ruby's personality and arrest record: XXIII, 21, 22, 172, 356, 7, 125; WR, 796, 800. Ruby's large sums of money and pistol: WR, 797, 805.

281-282. Ruby's reaction to assassination: WR, 335, 337-338.

282. Oswald's assertions, Jarman's location: WR, 182, 635, 250.

Jarman, Norman, and Williams on shooting: III, 204-207, 198-192, 175-176.

282A. Secret Service report: WR, 635; Oswald asks for Abt: XX, 441; IV, 215; VII, 314.

282-83. Kantor and Oswald's remarks: XX, 416.

November 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

Units 700	
through 799	Assigned to Civil Defense Units
Units 800	
through 874	Unassigned
Units 875	
through 890	Assigned to Public Works Department
900 Units	Assigned to Police Reserve Supervisors

No unit numbers are allocated past 930.

In addition, Sergeant BOWLES advised that Alert 2 in Dallas, Texas, with Alert 1 indicating the problem at Love All. Station 5 in the Dallas County Sheriff Dispatch 7 is the Park Department's office radio, BOWLES stated 3 is the Accident Prevention Bureau and "NBC" refers to 1 Broadcasting Company.

Sergeant BOWLES advised that a captain "A" or a "B" had a unit number indicates that a second unit is the same unit number simultaneously assigned to another example, he said Unit 15 is the Radio Patrol Company and the second unit assigned as above.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 705-Continued

Captain K.P. Gannaway
Special Service Bureau

November 22, 1963

Commission Exhibit No. 709

SUBJECT: Lee Harvey Oswald
605 Elzabeth Street


Re:

On November 22, 1963, at approximately 2:50PM, the undersigned officer as Special Agent James Hosty of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the basement of the City Hall.


At that time Special Agent Hosty related to this officer that the Subject was a member of the Communist Party, and that he was residing in Dallas. The Subject was arrested for the murder of Officer J.D. Tippit and is a prime suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The information regarding the Subject's affiliation with the Communist Party is the first information this officer has received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding same.

Agent Hosty further stated that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was aware of the Subject and that they had information that this Subject was capable of committing the assassination of President Kennedy.

Respectfully submitted,

 Jack Berrill, Lieutenant
 Criminal Intelligence Section

I am to and subscribed before me, this the 7th day of April, 1964.


 FRANCES DOCK
 Notary, Dallas County, Dallas, Texas

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 709