

But CIA people working on the KGB would certainly want to talk to Oswald because if Oswald had defected to the Soviets... it would be to the KGB that he would tell all these matters. And the CIA would want to know, they would have hundreds of questions for him....

Former CIA Secret Operations Officer Phillip Agee
Interview by HSCA, 1978, *National Archives*

18 OSWALD AS A SECRET AGENT

It will be helpful to list first some of the reasons, known at the time of the Warren Report, to suspect that Oswald was connected to the CIA or possibly to U.S. military intelligence:

1. A miniature camera, a set of binoculars, and other equipment were found in his possession. The camera was a Minox which was used almost exclusively at that time for spy work, both for the Soviets and U.S. intelligence.
2. Reference to "microdots" in his notes; this espionage term was not commonly known to the general public in 1963.
3. The extreme ease and speed with which he left the U.S. and entered Russia; also his Russian wife Marina's swift approval for coming to the U.S. and the attendant flagrant bypassing of passport procedures—not only when Oswald went to Russia but when he returned and subsequently easily obtained a passport to travel to Mexico City.
4. Oswald's relationship to a CIA contact (and ex-Nazi), George de Mohrenschildt, who was his "baby sitter" and who secretly debriefed him when he returned to Fort Worth. (De Mohrenschildt later committed suicide just before he was to be questioned by Gaeton Fonzi, investigator for the HSCA.)

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Point 1

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5. The strange absence of official CIA debriefing when Oswald returned from Russia. The CIA maintained that it did not have CIA-generated material in the standard 201 file on Oswald and had not been interested in him, despite the fact that he had defected to the Soviet Union with top-secret knowledge of the U-2 flights over Russia.
6. Oswald's proficiency with the Russian language, suggesting that he must have had secret training while in the Marine Corps. Oswald spoke Russian so fluently that when his wife Marina first met him she thought he was a Russian citizen.
7. The fact that the so-called traitor Oswald was employed for a short period after his return from Russia by a private contractor doing top-secret photographic work for the U.S. government: Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall, Inc., in Dallas.
8. Oswald's meeting with CIA officer David Atlee Phillips (a.k.a. Maurice Bishop) and a CIA contract agent and radical anti-Castro Cuban exile, Antonio Veciana, in Dallas in September 1963.
9. The fact that there were names of military intelligence personnel in Oswald's address book.
10. The fact that Oswald's name was not in the FBI list of dangerous persons in the Dallas-Fort Worth area at the time of the JFK assassination, despite his having been under almost constant surveillance by the FBI for years, up to within a few weeks of the assassination, and that he was known as a radical Communist who had defected from the Marine Corps and had passed high-level military secrets to the enemy.

Of the hundreds of books written on the Kennedy assassination, about half of the material has dealt with Oswald. Norman Mailer published his book *Oswald's Tale*, an 800-page volume dealing almost exclusively with Oswald. David Lifton has been working night and day, seven days a week, for the past seven years on an exhaustive book about Oswald. I cannot hope to cover in detail even a small portion of what is known about Oswald. Rather, I will focus on what I consider to be the most important information and how that fits into the overall scope of my thesis.

To begin, there is evidence that Oswald was recruited into military intelligence while he was in the Marine Corps in 1957, at Atsugi Air Force Base in Japan, as part of a program to send young

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