

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

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EDD A. JEFFORDS, State Chairman

Klamath Falls, Ore.
January 31, 1969

Fred Newcomb
4640 Noble Avenue
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Dear Fred:

After talking to you on the telephone earlier this evening, I decided to write to you immediately with details on Oswald's connection with the CIA-backed Indonesian revolt in March 1958.

Priscilla Johnson, the American correspondent who interviewed Oswald in Moscow just after his defection to Russia, told Warren Commission counsel W. David Slawson that Oswald "said he had been part of an invasion of Indonesia in March 1958, that there was a Communist-inspired social turnover, that they had to sit off the coast in ships with enough ammunition to intervene. He was told that they might have had to go in in Suez in 1956." (11H455) This is a pretty startling statement, but the Warren Commission absolutely ignored it anyway.

As a matter of fact, there was a revolt in Indonesia in March 1958. David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, in The Invisible Government (New York: Bantam Books, 1965), state that the revolt was instigated by elements of the population opposed to Sukarno, and that it was backed by the CIA, even though the U.S. government has never admitted such support. Wise and Ross state that in 1958, "on March 12 Jakarta announced that it had launched a paratroop invasion of Sumatra, and the next week the rebels formally appealed for American arms." (p. 149)

On ABC's "Issues and Answers" program, May 28, 1967, Jim Garrison referred to Oswald's presence with Marine Aircraft Control Squadron-1 at Subic Bay in the Philippines by saying: "And then he is at Subic Bay, which had at that time a CIA function, I understand. Of course, this is general knowledge." As a matter of fact, Oswald's squadron seems to have been earmarked for possible intervention in Indonesia by March 1958. Daniel P. Powers, who served with Oswald in the Philippines, was questioned by Warren Commission counsel Albert E. Jenner, Jr.:

MR. POWERS. This was just temporary quarters for the squadron [referring to Cubi Point in the Philippines]. They were at an operation early in November and then this --something--

MR. JENNER. That would be in November of 1957?

MR. POWERS. Yes. Something flared up, I believe, in Indonesia, somewhere in that area, and they held the squadron on the ship for a particular period of time; and then there was another operation going to start in February or sometime, or March, and they just--

MR. JENNER. Of 1958?

MR. POWERS. Yes, sir; instead of sending them back up to Japan, and then have to come all the way back again, they just put them ashore at Cubi Point. And they just set up a temporary base and continued the operation out of there. There was actually no radar site setup at that area, and we just got the gear and other material and trucks and apparatus and things, and equipment was repaired and made ready for the next operation. (8H279-280)

Unfortunately for us, Powers was left behind in the Philippines, with a few other members of the squadron, when Oswald and the bulk of the squadron sailed from the Philippines back to Japan in March 1958 (Powers and the other remaining Marines helped guard a U-2 aircraft, of all things, after the rest of the squadron departed). We therefore do not have his testimony as to the possibility of a diversion of the squadron to the Indonesian area in March 1958, and I cannot find a single Marine who served with Oswald giving any testimony concerning the return trip to Japan. So we must rely on Oswald's military record. As furnished by the Dept. of Defense to the Warren Commission, it states:

20 Nov 1957-6 Mar 1958 Embarked aboard Terrell County, LST 1157 with MACS-1, MAG-11, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Yokosuka, Japan on 20 November 1957 for maneuvers. Arrived in Philippine Islands area 20 November 1957.

7 Mar 1958-18 Mar 1958 Sailed from Corregidor, P.I. with MAC-1, MAG-11, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on 7 March 1958 aboard the USS WEXFORD COUNTY, LST 1168. Arrived at Atsugi, Japan 18 March 1958.
(CE 1961, p. 4)

In other words, Oswald's squadron sailed from Japan and arrived in Philippines, aboard a LST, in one day - 20 November 1957. Yet on the squadron's return cruise to Japan from the Philippines, also aboard a LST, the trip took from 7 March to 18 March 1958 - 11 days. Is it coincidence that the mysteriously delayed cruise back to Japan coincided with an appeal for U.S. arms by the Indonesian rebels, and with Oswald's claimed participation in an invasion of Indonesia in which he sat "off the coast in ships with enough ammunition to intervene"? And is it unworthy of note that the rebellion in Indonesia was CIA-backed?

I don't know if I'm the first assassination buff to come up with this theory, if you can call it a theory, but it still seems like a discovery of considerable interest. Do what you will with it.

Sincerely yours,

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