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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

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: John H. Waller Inspector General

SUBJECT

FROM

: Washington Star Story, 1 October 1976

1. This is for your information only.

2. On 1 October 1976 the <u>Washington Star</u> published a news story with an Associated Press credit line, headlined <u>CIA</u> <u>Viewed Oswald As Information Source</u> (copy attached). The lead stated:

> Contrary to sworn testimony, the CIA once considered using presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald as a source of intelligence information about the Soviet Union, according to a newly released CIA document.

In sworn testimony before the Warren Commission, former CIA Director Richard Helms said the Agency never had "or even contemplated" any contacts with Oswald.

The news story, in another section, made the following statement:

The November 25, 1963, memo explained that the Agency's interest in Oswald as a potential intelligence source was due to his "unusual behavior in the USSR," to which he had defected in 1959.



3. There was such a memorandum, written by a case officer then stationed **Annual**, recently released under FOIA. Writing three days after President Kennedy's assassination, this case officer recalled that there had been interest in Oswald.

> As soon as I had heard Oswald's name, I recalled that as the summer of 1960 -- with the summer of 1960

the laying on of interview (s) through other suitable channels . . .

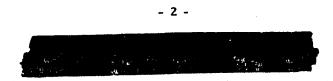
I remember that Oswald's unusual behavior in the USSR had struck me from the moment I had read STATE the first **and the set of t** 

. . . I do not know what action developed thereafter . . .

4. The Helms testimony before the Warren Commission on this subject was as follows:

Mr. Helms. On Mr. McCone's behalf, I had all our records searched to see if there had been any contacts at any time prior to President Kennedy's assassination by anyone in the Central Intelligence Agency with Lee Harvey Oswald. We checked our card files and our personal files and all our records.

Now this check turned out to be negative. In addition I got in touch with those officers who were in positions of responsibility at the times in question to see if anybody had any recollection of any contact having even been suggested with this man. This also turned out to be negative, so there is no material in the Central Intelligence Agency, either in the records or in the mind of any of the individuals, that there was any contact had or even contemplated with him.



5. Mr. Helms did state exactly the words quoted in the news story -- "or even contemplated." But the context of those words was what was reported to him as the result of a search of records and memories. To this day those familiar with the extensive Oswald records state that there is no reflection in those records that anyone even undertook to propose or approve a contact with Oswald. It would have been natural to do so, but apparently any such thoughts did not progress to formal action. From the memorandum quoted, it is apparent that someone at Branch level did think about it, even if nothing ever came of it. This hardly constitutes a responsible or official or serious "contemplation" of the idea. Mr. Helms' full statement on this point seems literally correct in the full context of his statement, although more refined qualifications might have reiterated the basis for his conclusions. The news story is misleading on this point.

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6. The news story statement that Oswald was considered due to his "unusual behavior in the USSR," is exactly the opposite of the statements of the quoted memorandum, which reported the care that should be used if Oswald were approached, because of his strange conduct.

7. The statement in the news story about Mr. Dulles consulting with Agency personnel on how to answer questions is basically true. The interpretation to be placed on this counselling will depend on the interpreter. The inference of the news'story is that Mr. Dulles was counselling slanted responses on the Oswald issue, thereby tending to reinforce the interpretation of deception attributed to Mr. Helms.

	ofin H. Waller
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When he appeared before the con-invision in May 1954. Helms, then head of the lagency's chandestine one cos, testilled under oath that there is no initerial in the Central is grace Agency ; either in the in monds or is the mind of any of the hall elduals, that there was any contant had or even comtcoplated with" Oswald.

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TIME NOV. 25, 1963, memo explains that the agency's interest in Oswald as a potential istelligence source was due to hum "unusual behavior in the USSR," to which he had defected in 1559, "The word particularly interested in the word particularly interested in U.z (deleted) Oswald might pro-vide on the Minsk factory in which he ilead been employed, on certain secwhich they ght the usual (deleted) that finisht usip develop (deleted) person-rally dessions, "the memo states. The memo indicates, that Oswald. was also of interest to the CIA because of concern that his Russian-16 born wille, Marina, might have been part of a trend for Soviet women to marry foreigners, leave the country Sand settle overseas where they could CO برنامیت د پیلومیت (روید ۲۰۰۰) میرومی St. ve as spies.

THE MEMO ABOUT the ngency's interest in Oswald said the discustions about Oswald occurred "some-tions in summer 1960." The author continued: "I don't recall if this was discussed while Oswald and his Jamiby ware on route to our country or if it best after their arrival."

