

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY [REDACTED]

5 October 1976

NOTE FOR: The Director
FROM : Seymour R. Bolten, A/DDCI
SUBJECT : Washington Star Article
"CIA Viewed Oswald As Information
Source" dated 1 October 1976

This article will further smear Dick Helms' reputation and probably cause him some anxious moments, but I do not see how it can result in any additional legal problems for him as it is a gross distortion of the facts. I have asked John Waller to send you separately a short memorandum placing this event in perspective.

Waller advises me that a communication has been sent to Helms describing the article and providing him with a memory refresher should he feel compelled to comment on the allegation.

This is another example where material provided to the press and public in response to an FOIA request is exploited mischievously and in distorted form to make the headlines.

[REDACTED]
Seymour R. Bolten

CRIM - addendum

1 - ER

1 - BOLTEN

[REDACTED]

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20.6.76

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APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
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Remarks:			
<p>Seymour - will this cause problems for Helms - [Redacted] [Redacted] GB 10-2</p>			
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
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10/1/76

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2

Document Contradicts Testimony CIA Viewed Oswald As Information Source

Associated Press

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 newly released document, written by an unidentified CIA officer three days after President John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, says that "we showed intelligence interest" in Oswald and "discussed . . . the laying on of interviews."

The unidentified officer added that I do not know what action developed thereafter.

THE MEMO WAS AMONG hundreds of pages of documents from the CIA's file on Lee Harvey Oswald. The material was released to The Associated Press yesterday under the Freedom of Information Act.

A second document reveals that former CIA Director Allen Dulles, while serving as a member of the Warren Commission, privately counseled CIA officials on the best way to answer questions from the commission about allegations that Oswald was a CIA agent.

Dulles "thought language which made it clear that Lee Harvey Oswald was never an employe or agent of CIA would suffice," an unidentified CIA officer wrote Helms in April 1964.

"I agree with him that a carefully phrased denial of the charges of involvement with Oswald seemed most appropriate," the unidentified officer added.

When he appeared before the commission in May 1964, Helms, then head of the agency's clandestine services, testified under oath that "there's 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" Oswald.

THE NOV. 25, 1963, memo explains 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.

"We were particularly interested in the (deleted) Oswald might provide on the Minsk factory in which he had been employed, on certain sections of the city itself, and of course we thought the usual (deleted) that might help develop (deleted) personality dossiers," the memo states.

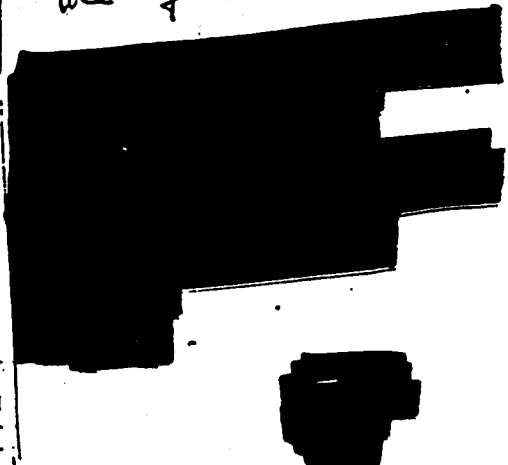
The memo indicates that Oswald was also of interest to the CIA because of concern that his Russian-

born wife, Marina, might have been part of a trend for Soviet women to marry foreigners, leave the country and settle overseas where they could serve as spies.

THE MEMO ABOUT the agency's interest in Oswald said the discussions about Oswald occurred "some-time in summer 1960." The author continued: "I don't recall if this was discussed while Oswald and his family were en route to our country or if it was after their arrival."

GB:

This is our friend
David Martin's work.
A.P. ticker #A220, slightly better
resulted from our
telephone call protesting
the sloppy story on
the left.



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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

Date. 1 Oct

Item No. 2

Ref. No. _____

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44-220

R H BYLBYLZC

7BY CIA-OSWALD: SUT - 2 TAKES: 388-550

7BY DAVID C. MARTIN

7BY ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - SENATE INVESTIGATORS WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM REPORTS FROM TWO CIA OFFICERS THAT THE SPY AGENCY MAY HAVE CONTACTED LEE HARVEY OSWALD PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY; IT WAS LEARNED FRIDAY.

HOWEVER, SEN. RICHARD SCHWEIKER, R-PA., WHO HEADED THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION, SAID THROUGH A SPOKESMAN THAT "I DON'T THINK WE KNOW THE WHOLE STORY."

THE CIA RELEASED A DOCUMENT THURSDAY SHOWING THAT THE AGENCY ONCE CONSIDERED USING OSWALD AS A SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION. THE DOCUMENT APPEARED TO CONFLICT WITH SWORN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION BY RICHARD HELMS, THEN A BRANCH CHIEF AND LATER THE CIA'S DIRECTOR, THAT THE AGENCY NEVER HAD "OR EVEN CONTEMPLATED" ANY CONTACTS WITH OSWALD.

SCHWEIKER SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE OSWALD DOCUMENT BUT A WELL-INFORMED SOURCE SAID IT HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT INVESTIGATED THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. "WE FOLLOWED IT UP," THE SOURCE SAID, BUT "WE FOUND NO INDICATION THAT OSWALD WAS IN FACT CONTACTED."

THE SAME SOURCE SAID INVESTIGATORS ALSO WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE SWORN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE BY A FORMER CIA OFFICER WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN A CIA REPORT CONCERNING A CONTACT WITH A MAN CLOSELY RESEMBLING OSWALD'S DESCRIPTION.

SCHWEIKER CONFIRMED THAT HIS SUBCOMMITTEE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CORROBORATE "SEVERAL REPORTS" OF CIA CONTACTS WITH OSWALD IN CONNECTION WITH HIS TRAVELS IN RUSSIA.

OSWALD DEFECTED TO THE SOVIET UNION IN 1959 AND LIVED THERE UNTIL 1962.

THE OSWALD DOCUMENT RELEASED BY THE CIA UNDER A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST WAS WRITTEN BY AN UNIDENTIFIED CIA OFFICER WHO RECALLED THAT "WE SHOWED INTELLIGENCE INTEREST" IN OSWALD AND

over

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"DISCUSSED THE LAYING ON OF INTERVIEWS."

THE UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER, WHO WROTE THE MEMO THREE DAYS AFTER KENNEDY WAS KILLED IN DALLAS ON NOV. 22, 1963, ADDED THAT HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT AND "I DO NOT KNOW WHAT ACTION DEVELOPED THEREAFTER."

ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS INTERVIEWED THE OFFICIAL WITH WHOM THE UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACTING OSWALD.

"NOTHING EVER CAME OF IT," THE SOURCE SAID ADDING THAT A SEARCH OF AGENCY FILES TURNED UP "NO PAPERWORK THAT ANY FOLLOW-UP ACTION WAS TAKEN" TO CONTACT OSWALD.

SIMILARLY, THE SOURCE SAID INVESTIGATORS "FOUND NO DOCUMENTS" THAT WOULD HAVE CORROBORATED THE TESTIMONY OF THE FORMER CIA OFFICER WHO SAID HE RECALLED SEEING A REPORT INDICATING THE AGENCY DEBRIEFED AN EX-MARINE WHO HAD WORKED IN A RADIO FACTORY IN MINSK - A DESCRIPTION WHICH EXACTLY FITS OSWALD.

ADORE

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RRM-CIA-OSWALD BUT 1ST ADD: 170;

WASHINGTON; FITS OSWALD.

THIS SOURCE DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CIA MIGHT HAVE COVERED UP ANY DEALINGS IT HAD WITH OSWALD, SAYING, "SOMEBODY WOULD HAVE HAD TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO ALTER DOCUMENTS."

THE BRIEF STATEMENT RELEASED BY SCHWEIKER GAVE NO INDICATION OF THE BASIS FOR HIS CONTINUING SUSPICION.

ALLEGATIONS THAT OSWALD WAS IN SOME WAY WORKING FOR THE CIA HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING SINCE 1963 AND HAVE BEEN DISCOUNTED BY CIA OFFICIALS AS PART OF A COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

WHEN HELMS APPEARED BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION IN MAY 1964, HE TESTIFIED UNDER OATH THAT "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."

AT THE TIME OF HIS TESTIMONY, HELMS WAS HEAD OF THE AGENCY'S CLANDESTINE SERVICES.

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