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FM MIAMI (89-35) P

TO DIRECTOR (62-109060) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS (89-43) IMMEDIATE

NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

BT

E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, DIVISION FIVE  
ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

RE MIAMI TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MARCH 29, 1977, ENTITLED  
"LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IS - RUSSIA - CUBA".

EDWARD J. EPSTEIN AND NANCY LENEAX INTERVIEWED BREAKERS  
HOTEL, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, MARCH 30, 1977. EPSTEIN UNDER  
CONTRACT TO READER'S DIGEST TO WRITE BOOK ON LIFE OF LEE  
HARVEY OSWALD. LENEAX IS RESEARCH ASSISTANT. EPSTEIN HAS  
FOR OVER ONE YEAR CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE RESEARCH CONCERNING  
OSWALD'S BACKGROUND AND PLANNED TO DEVOTE ONE CHAPTER OF

1-070, AAG-Criminal Div.  
4/4/77  
JTA/gjw

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED #6454  
DATE 4/26/89 BY SP6 [redacted] b7c  
Per CIA letter 9/23/88 FBI

84 APR 20 1977

MAR 30 8 29 PM '77

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Fin. & Pers.	_____
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Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgt.	_____
S. & T. Serv.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

REC-126/2-107060-769

APR 13 1977

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PAGE TWO MM 89-35 E F T O

BOOK TO GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT, WHOM HE PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED IN DALLAS IN APRIL, 1976, DUE TO DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S ALLEGED CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH LEE HARVEY AND MARINA OSWALD FROM 1962 AND UP TO THE DATE OF THE ASSASSINATION. EPSTEIN SINCE INTERVIEW OF APRIL, 1976, HAS DONE CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH INTO DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S BACKGROUND AND SINCE THAT TIME DE MOHRENSCHILDT HAS BROKEN TWO DATES FOR ADDITIONAL INTERVIEW, ONCE IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, AND ONCE IN NEW YORK CITY. EPSTEIN STATED DE MOHRENSCHILDT CALLED HIM IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK AND WISHED TO BE INTERVIEWED IN PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, AND ALTHOUGH EPSTEIN WAS NOT INTERESTED AT THIS TIME, READER'S DIGEST INSTRUCTED HIM TO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW AND PAY DE MOHRENSCHILDT \$4,000.

EPSTEIN INTERVIEWED DE MOHRENSCHILDT AFTERNOON OF MARCH 28, 1977, AND HAVING CONSIDERABLE BACKGROUND, THREW A NUMBER OF NAMES AT DE MOHRENSCHILDT TO GET HIS REACTION AND TO DETERMINE IF THESE INDIVIDUALS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH DE MOHRENSCHILDT AND IF THEY WOULD HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE BOOK CONCERNING OSWALD. ACCORDING TO EPSTEIN, DE MOHRENSCHILDT HAD LITTLE REACTION TO NAMES MENTIONED AND BRIEFLY EXPLAINED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS. EPSTEIN STATED ONLY

PAGE THREE MM 89-35 E F T O

REVELATION OF ANY VALUE, IN HIS OPINION, COMING FROM THIS INTERVIEW OF MARCH 28, 1977, AND FROM INTERVIEW OF 10:00 AM, TO 1:00 PM, MARCH 29, 1977, WERE STATEMENTS OF DE MOHRENSCHILDT CONCERNING ORIGINAL OF A PHOTOGRAPH OF OSWALD, WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY APPEARED ON COVER OF LIFE MAGAZINE. DE MOHRENSCHILDT CONTENDED HE HAD ORIGINAL OF THIS PHOTOGRAPH AND THAT LIFE MAGAZINE HAD OBTAINED A COPY FROM MARINA OSWALD. DE MOHRENSCHILDT CONTENDED THAT HE HAD SEEN THE PHOTO OF OSWALD HOLDING A RIFLE WITH SCOPE SIGHT POINTED AT OSWALD RESIDENCE, SHORTLY AFTER GENERAL EDWIN WALKER HAD BEEN SHOT AT AND HUMOROUSLY REMARKED TO OSWALD, "DID YOU TAKE A POT SHOT AT GENERAL WALKER?", AND DE MOHRENSCHILDT CONTENDED THAT AFTER THIS CASUAL QUESTION, OSWALD ACTED STRANGELY AND DE MOHRENSCHILDT LEFT THE OSWALD RESIDENCE. DE MOHRENSCHILDT STATED HE HAD PREVIOUSLY LENT THE OSWALDS A NUMBER OF PHONOGRAPH RECORDS WHICH DEALT WITH THE RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND WHEN THESE RECORDS WERE LATER RETURNED TO HIM BY MARINA OSWALD, HE FOUND THE ORIGINAL OF THIS PHOTOGRAPH MIXED IN WITH THE PHONOGRAPH RECORDS. DE MOHRENSCHILDT TOLD EPSTEIN THAT THIS PHOTOGRAPH NOW IN POSSESSION OF [REDACTED]

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De...

PAGE FOUR MM 89-35 E F T O.

DALLAS, TEXAS, ALONG WITH TEN TAPES AND A MANUSCRIPT WHICH HE, DE MOHRENSCHILDT, HAD PREPARED CONCERNING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH OSWALD. DE MOHRENSCHILDT, ACCORDING TO EPSTEIN, CLAIMED THE PHOTOGRAPH FOUND IN THE PHONOGRAPH RECORDS BORE THE NOTATION ON THE FRONT, "TO GEORGE", AND ON THE BACK, ACCORDING TO DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S RECOLLECTION, THE FOLLOWING IN RUSSIAN: "TO THE FASCIST HUNTER" OR "LONG LIVE THE ASSASSIN". EPSTEIN STATED HE RELATED THIS TO THE READER'S DIGEST OFFICE, MARCH 28, 1977, AND THAT [REDACTED] WAS CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE BY HIS NEW YORK OFFICE AND CLAIMED HE HAD SUCH A PHOTOGRAPH AND THAT IT WAS AVAILABLE FOR MONEY. EPSTEIN AGREES THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HANDWRITING TESTS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH WHO WROTE THE ALLEGED MESSAGES ON THE PHOTOGRAPH OR THE ACTUAL TIME ALLEGED MESSAGE WAS WRITTEN, IF THESE WRITINGS IN FACT EXIST. EPSTEIN ADMITS SHOWING DE MOHRENSCHILDT A COPY OF AN ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 20, 1977, DALLAS MORNING NEWS, CONCERNING DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S PREVIOUS COMMENT IN THE PARKLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, NOVEMBER 9, 1976.

EPSTEIN UNABLE TO ADVANCE A THEORY AS TO WHY DE MOHRENSCHILDT COMMITTED SUICIDE APPROXIMATELY 2:30 PM, MARCH 29, 1977, AND ADVISED THAT DE MOHRENSCHILDT WAS DUE BACK AT THE BREAKERS HOTEL

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b7D

PAGE FIVE MM 89-35 E F T O  
AT 3 PM, TO CONTINUE INTERVIEW.

EPSTEIN CHARACTERIZED DE MOHRENSCHILDT AS MENTALLY DISTURBED. HE SAID HE HAD SHOWN DE MOHRENSCHILDT A COPY OF A MARCH 20, 1977 DALLAS NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH REPORTED DE MOHRENSCHILDT HAD BEEN CONFINED TO PARKLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC WARD FOR TREATMENT FROM NOVEMBER 9 TO DECEMBER 30, 1976, AND DE MOHPENSCHILDT APPEARED EXTREMELY DISTRAUGHT OVER APPEARANCE OF THIS ARTICLE.

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, INVESTIGATING SUICIDE, DEVELOPED THAT THE DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S DAUGHTER, ALEX, ADVISED HIM APPROXIMATELY 1:30 PM, MARCH 29, 1977, THAT GASTAN J. FONZI, OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION, HAD BEEN AT THE RESIDENCE EARLIER LOOKING FOR HIM AND ACCORDING TO HIS DAUGHTER, HE WAS QUITE UPSET BY THIS NEWS AND PLANNED TO FLEE FROM THE AREA. DE MOHRENSCHILDT APPARENTLY COMMITTED SUICIDE BY SHOOTING HIMSELF WHILE DAUGHTER AND HER AUNT, NANCY O. TILTON, WHO OWNS THE MANALAPAN RESIDENCE, WENT TO BUY HIM SOME CLOTHES AND PERSONAL ARTICLES. AS MRS. TILTON WAS TAPING SOAP OPERAS WHILE SHE WAS AWAY FROM THE HOUSE, THE TAPES REVEALED AN EXPLOSION, APPROXIMATELY THE TIME DE MOHRENSCHILDT COMMITTED

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PAGE SIX MM 89-35 E F T O

SUICIDE. NO SOUNDS ON TAPE INDICATE DEATH WAS OTHER THAN SUICIDE.

MIAMI IN POSSESSION OF XEROX COPIES OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES FOUND IN DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S BRIEFCASE DURING SUICIDE INVESTIGATION BY PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE RETAINING ORIGINALS, INCLUDING MRS. TILTON'S TAPES. AMONG THESE PAPERS IS A DOCUMENT PURPORTEDLY PREPARED BY DE MOHRENSCHILDT'S WIFE, JEANIE, IN SUPPORT OF HIS COMMITMENT FOR PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT, IN WHICH STATEMENT SHE STATES DE MOHRENSCHILDT HAS A CURRENT HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE ON FOUR OCCASIONS BETWEEN JULY AND NOVEMBER 11, 1976, THE DATE ON WHICH HE WAS CONFINED. CURSORY REVIEW OF REMAINDER OF DOCUMENTS FAILS TO REVEAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAVING A BEARING ON THIS CASE.

NEW YORK BEING ADVISED AS EPSTEIN RETURNING TO NEW YORK CITY VIA EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT 194, DEPARTING WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, 6:46 PM, MARCH 31, 1977, AND CAN BE LOCATED IN NEW YORK AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS 288-6861 OR 972-6175, OR THROUGH READER'S DIGEST EDITOR, FULTON TONY OSLER, NEW YORK,

PAGE SEVEN MM 89-35 E F T O  
TELEPHONE NUMBER 914-769-7000.

DALLAS, UACB, CONTACT [REDACTED] CONCERNING  
PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS SET OUT.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING MIAMI.

BT

THE WORD SENT ON PAGE 7 SHOULD READ SET  
PLS HOLD

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b7D

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Moore *m/k*

DATE: 4/4/77

FROM : J. S. Peelman *JSP*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN F. KENNEDY;  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963;  
DALLAS, TEXAS;  
OO: DALLAS

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Aldhizer
- 1 - Mr. Lawn
- 1 - External Affairs Division
- 1 - Mr. Mintz

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
- Fin. & Pers. *✓*
- Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgt. \_\_\_\_\_
- S. & T. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

PURPOSE: To summarize results of our investigation into recent developments in the Kennedy assassination case involving George DeMohrenschildt, former associate of Oswald who was an apparent suicide victim on 3/29/77.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED #6454  
DATE 1/26/89 BY SP6 [redacted]

APPROVED:

Director \_\_\_\_\_ *[Signature]*  
 Assoc. Dir. *[Signature]*  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

- Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
- Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgt. \_\_\_\_\_
- S. & T. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_

*pol CIA letter*  
*4/23/85*  
**67C**

BACKGROUND: George DeMohrenschildt, a former associate of Oswald, apparently committed suicide in Manalapan, Florida, on 3/29/77. Through public media disclosure, primarily by Willem Oltmans, a Dutch journalist and associate of DeMohrenschildt, it is alleged that DeMohrenschildt claimed he was not truthful with the Warren Commission and had influenced Oswald's actions prior to the assassination. It is also alleged that a manuscript written by DeMohrenschildt contains the names of FBI Agents who were involved in an assassination plot. In testimony before the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) on 4/1/77, Oltmans stated DeMohrenschildt told him he gave instructions to Oswald to kill Kennedy. Subsequent to DeMohrenschildt's suicide, our investigation has produced the following developments.

JTA:bam (10)  
62-109060 *bam*

DE-30

REC-126

7 APR 13 1977

CONTINUED - OVER

*62-109060-7698*  
*[Handwritten signature]*



Memorandum to Mr. Moore  
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

DEMOHRENSCHILDT [REDACTED]

During interview on  
3/31/77, Russell

acknowledged possession of photograph of Oswald which appeared on cover of "Life Magazine" several years ago, ten 12 reel-type tape recordings containing taped conversations of DeMohrenschildt and his wife and a copy of a manuscript written by DeMohrenschildt entitled "I am a Patsy; I am a Patsy." [REDACTED] agreed to provide to the FBI copies of all of these items belonging to DeMohrenschildt but placed conditions that the press not be notified; that contents not be publicly released; and that it not become known that any of these items were released to anyone.

On 4/1/77, Mr. Robert Keuch, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, advised the FBI should attempt to obtain this material [REDACTED] however, he should be initially advised that his identity would be protected but if the Chairman of the HSCA requested contents of the information, it would be furnished to him and may ultimately disclose identity of the contributor. [REDACTED] was to be reminded of possible disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act. b7c b7D

Prior to recontacting [REDACTED] the Dallas Office learned through the media that DeMohrenschildt's personal effects were turned over to the HSCA. [REDACTED] confirmed on 4/2/77, that the HSCA had subpoenaed all items in his possession belonging to DeMohrenschildt. Investigators would return these items within 10 days and that if the FBI still desires to review them, he should be recontacted.

[REDACTED] stated he had reviewed manuscript of DeMohrenschildt's book and it contained no allegations concerning FBI Agents by name or otherwise and no allegations that FBI Agents were involved in any conspiracies.

INTERVIEW WITH DEMOHRENSCHILDT'S RELATIVES ON 4/1/77: Nancy O. Tilton,

"former in-law", Manalapan, Florida, claimed DeMohrenschildt had no contact with Oswald after moving to Haiti in April or May of 1963. She labeled alleged close association between DeMohrenschildt and Oswald and DeMohrenschildt's knowledge of Oswald's activities as "garbage" and knew of nothing to indicate DeMohrenschildt was aware that Oswald would kill Kennedy. She stated that "lies" are being concocted by Dutch journalist, Willem Oltmans.

Memorandum to Mr. Moore  
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

~~X~~ DeMohrenschildt's daughter, Alexandria, in Manalapan, Florida, stated her father was not "close" to Oswald, but felt sorry for him and had helped the Oswalds adjust to the community in the Dallas area. She was certain DeMohrenschildt had no contact with Oswald after May, 1963, and that her father disclosed nothing to her indicating he knew of a planned assassination.

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION: David ~~X~~ Russell, Houston, Texas, associated with Oltmans and believed to be in possession of DeMohrenschildt's car at the time of his suicide, was interviewed on 4/1/77. He provided no pertinent information, but stated that on request of DeMohrenschildt, he delivered DeMohrenschildt's automobile on 3/27/77, to W. C. Jim Savage, Transworld Drilling Company, Houston.

On 4/1/77, Savage made available DeMohrenschildt's car and inventory by Bureau Agents produced no pertinent items or information. Savage, who claims association with DeMohrenschildt since 1946, stated he talked with DeMohrenschildt shortly before he took his life and that during conversation, DeMohrenschildt indicated he was despondent over his wife leaving him. During conversation DeMohrenschildt made no mention of the Kennedy assassination probe.

Investigation continuing to interview DeMohrenschildt's wife in Dallas and a representative of Dutch TV in New York, who may possess a tape of DeMohrenschildt's interview. Efforts to review DeMohrenschildt's property will resume following return of the items to Russell by the HSCA. The Department of Justice is being advised of current developments.

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3-31-77  
 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION  
 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Attached teletype from Miami sets forth the results of an interview with Edward J. Epstein and his Research Assistant Nancy Leneaux. Epstein, a journalist who is currently preparing a book on the life of Lee Harvey Oswald, has been conducting extensive research for a year. One chapter of his book concerns George DeMohrenschildt, allegedly a close associate of Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife from 1962 up to the date of the assassination on 11-22-63. Epstein has done considerable research into DeMohrenschildt's background, and he advised that on two different occasions DeMohrenschildt broke dates for interview. According to Epstein, DeMohrenschildt called him in New York last week and wished to be interviewed in Palm Beach, Florida. Although Epstein was not interested, Reader's Digest, for whom Epstein is employed, instructed him to conduct the interview and pay DeMohrenschildt \$4,000.

Epstein did interview DeMohrenschildt on 3-28-77 and again on 3-29-77 up until 1 p.m. in the afternoon. Epstein indicated the only revelation of any value concerned the original photograph of Oswald which had previously appeared on the cover of Life Magazine and DeMohrenschildt contended he had the original photograph which was in possession of [redacted] Dallas, Texas, along with 10 tapes and a manuscript which DeMohrenschildt had prepared concerning his association with Oswald.

DeMohrenschildt was supposed to continue his interview with Epstein in the afternoon of 3-29-77. He did not appear and it was subsequently determined he had committed suicide. Epstein characterized DeMohrenschildt as mentally disturbed.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office determined from DeMohrenschildt's daughter that Gaston J. Fonzi of the House Committee investigating the assassination had been at the residence earlier on 3-29-77 looking for him. According to his daughter DeMohrenschildt was upset and had planned to flee the area.

Miami is in possession of Xerox copies of numerous articles found in DeMohrenschildt's briefcase during suicide investigation by Palm Beach authorities. Among these papers is a document indicating DeMohrenschildt had a current history of mental illness and attempted suicide on 4 occasions between July and November 11, 1976. Remaining documents failed to reveal additional information having a bearing on the investigation. Investigation continuing. Department being advised.

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - External Affairs

APPROVED:

Director *[Signature]*  
 Assoc. Dir. *[Signature]*  
 Dep. AD Adm. *[Signature]*  
 Dep. AD Inv. *[Signature]*

Adm. Serv. ....	Legal Coun. ....
Ext. Affairs. ....	Plan. & Insp. ....
Fin. & Pers. ....	Rec. Mgt. ....
Gen. Inv. <i>[Signature]</i> ..	S. & T. Serv. ....
Ident. ....	Spec. Inv. ....
Intell. ....	Training ....

KMR:AVM  
*[Signature]*

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