

Tom Stacey would have been there - they

NEW MYSTERIES IN THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION?

NIEUWE REVU

The Dutch journalist's story that shook Washington

WILLEM OLTMANS

The following interview by Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans with the late George de Mohrenschildt is reprinted from the popular weekly "Nieuwe Revu" of Amsterdam.

I have known George de Mohrenschildt since 1967. I found out about his existence via parapsychological channels. I had spoken with the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy, whom I met accidentally during a flight over the U.S. in 1964. Afterward I consulted Gerard Croiset, the world-famous Utrecht clairvoyant. He immediately furnished a number of details on "the man behind Oswald" which were recorded by Carel Enkelaar of Netherlands TV. From then on we spoke among ourselves about "the possible architect of the Dallas ambush of the President."

With Croiset's information I traveled to Fort Worth, Tex., and learned from Oswald's mother that the man described in Utrecht really existed, that he was George de Mohrenschildt, and that he had been in the years prior to 1963 Oswald's most intimate friend. Those must have been the years when Oswald's brain was being programmed toward the murder of the century.

For ten years now I have kept in close contact with de Mohrenschildt, sometimes in consultation with Croiset and Enkelaar. I had an extensive conversation with him in the CBS studios in Dallas. I taped a forty-minute interview with Mr. and Mrs. de Mohrenschildt and Mrs. Oswald which disappeared from the Netherlands TV file and another eight-hour tape in the CBS studio in 1969.

DALLAS, Feb. 23, 1977

"Willem, I feel responsible for Lee Harvey Oswald's behavior, so in that sense I feel involved in John F. Kennedy's murder. What do you think would happen if I came out and said this publicly?"

"I think you would make some sensational newspaper headlines."

"You know that my wife Jeanne and I are now divorced. She's staying with her brother in California. I am now sixty-five, and at the end of this academic year Bishop College [where he had been teaching French] will not renew my contract. I am reaching the end of the line."

"Why did you wait until now to expose these sensational revelations?"

"At a time when the whole world is saying so many scandalous things about me don't you think I should speak up?"

"How do you propose to do this? On television? Or do you want to write a book?"

"I wrote a book. In June, 1976, I completed a manuscript. That's when disaster struck. You see, in that book I played the



The de Mohrenschildts — "make a buck out of the Kennedy murder."

devil's advocate. Without directly implicating myself as an accomplice in the JFK assassination I still mentioned a number of names, particularly of FBI and CIA officials who apparently may not be exposed under any circumstances. I was drugged surreptitiously. As a result I was committed to a mental hospital. I was there eight weeks and was given electric shocks and as a consequence I sometimes forget certain details temporarily."

"Your story reminds me of what happened to certain Soviet dissidents like Vladimir Bukovsky."

"My wife had me committed and my lawyer schemed with her against me."

"Maybe they were trying to protect you so you would not make any statement which would put you in prison for conspiracy to murder? A psychiatric clinic and plea of insanity are still better than the electric chair."

"I tried to commit suicide five times already. One of these days

"I will put a revolver to my head. There is no reason to go on."

"What happened to the manuscript of your book?"

"It's in my lawyer's file, which means it's in the hands of my enemies."

"Who is your enemy?"

"Everyone who wants to keep the cover on Kennedy's assassination, and the Jewish Mafia."

"What do you mean by that?"

"At the time that my family fled from Bolshevism in Russia we first went to Poland. My father then asked the Germans to help us go to Belgium. And now we are accused of having been pro-Nazi. A Mr. Weinreb came to Dallas. He is a Nazi-hunter. I met the man—an extremely unpleasant person. Since that day I have had the local Jewish Mafia on my neck."

"George, aren't you exaggerating? You have the feeling that you're constantly persecuted. If I understand your lawyer correctly that's the reason you were treated in a psychiatric clinic."

"Willem, you've known me for ten years now. Did you ever notice that I was nervous or suffering from complexes? This all started in June, 1976, when I had completed my manuscript. Now, yes, I'm hypertensive and nervous. They're trying to drive me insane. You mentioned Bukovsky, he also spent time in Soviet clinics. But now Carter and Mondale receive him at the White House for a private interview. I am talking to you now, you are my friend, I trust you, don't betray me, take me to a safe place. Dallas will destroy me."

"You've always known that it is my goal to unravel the facts around the Kennedy assassination."

"I want to talk, but not here. First I want to get out of the U.S."

"I'll get you to Holland."

"Why did you maintain that Oswald was innocent both in my television film and on tape?"

"In the first place we were friends. I wanted to clear his name"

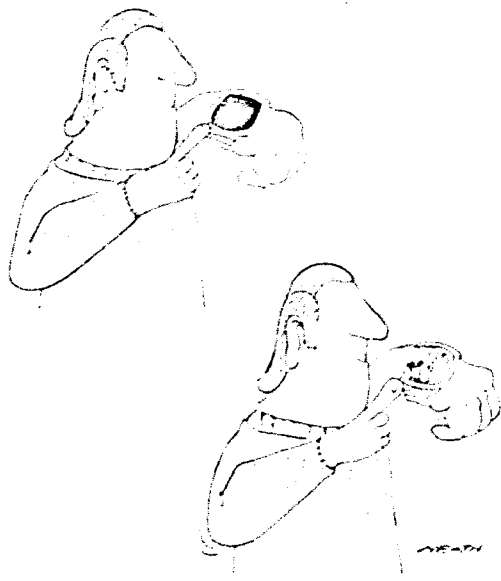


Illustration by Robert Rauschenberg

and memory. He was dead anyway, wasn't he? And on top of that, if Oswald shot at Kennedy at all, he did not shoot alone. A so-called assassination team had been formed."

"Did you know this man, for example?" (I showed George a picture of Emilio Santana, who is suspected by some of shooting Kennedy.)

"No. But immediately after the murder in Dallas a group of Latins came to our house and showed us a series of photographs of Cubans. We didn't recognize anybody. I believe that if I had admitted recognizing certain faces I might have been in danger."

"Do you think Oswald received a lot of money for his part in the conspiracy?"

"He didn't live long enough to cash in on it."

"Did you know Jack Ruby, the nightclub owner who killed Oswald?"

"I think I did."

"Did you ever visit Ruby's club?"

"Everyone who wants to keep a cover on the assassination is my enemy . . ."

"Yes."

"Recently Oswald's correspondence with the wealthiest oil rancher in Texas, H. L. Hunt, was released. Is that where the money came from?"

"I knew Hunt, now the late Mr. Hunt, intimately. For some twenty years I was invited to his parties."

"Why do you come to me with this confession now?"

"Because you are here now."

"But in what respect do you feel responsible for Oswald's behavior and action?"

"Just read the Warren Report. At the moment when JFK's assassination became known we were in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I was absolutely sure that Oswald had done it. That I told the Warren Commission, which at the time of my testimony was presided over by Gerald Ford, who was later to become President. But no one listened. Nobody ever asked me why I was so sure. Oswald, who spent several years in the Soviet Union, hated and despised American society. You know that I am of the same opinion in many respects. Oswald found a confirmation of his political opinions in me. We were extremely close. I considered him as a soldier in the Polish regiment I once commanded. He was clever, intelligent, and well-read. He spoke Russian almost flawlessly."

"But that still doesn't prove that you are also responsible for the action of Oswald and his co-conspirators."

"Just read more attentively all the books which have been written about the relationship between Lee Oswald and me."

"So you want to go to Europe now?"

"Yes, indeed. In the first place because I don't feel safe here any longer. And also because I will never be able to expose the entire matter in detail here in the U.S., about what led to Dallas. Nov. 23, 1963."

In the harrowing days that followed, de Mohrenschildt was debating whether he should leave his personal belongings—his books and paintings—behind and thus burn his bridges by

leaving forever for Europe or elsewhere. I left Dallas for a reporting job in Houston on Feb. 25. On Feb. 27 I returned to Dallas. At 11:45 the next evening de Mohrenschildt appeared voluntarily in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in Dallas and told me that he wanted to leave for Houston immediately in order to board a KLM jumbo jet to Holland. We spent the entire night driving to Houston. But since no KLM plane was scheduled to leave Houston we took Eastern Airlines to New York on March 1. The next morning we flew to London and on March 3 at 1:30 p.m. we arrived at Amsterdam airport.

We stayed at a friend's house. In the evening we met in Utrecht with Gerard Croiset and Carel Enkelaar. On March 4 we continued the interview at the broadcasting studio in Bussum. We mainly discussed the worldwide publication of his book and he agreed in principle to the terms proposed by the Stringfellow Publishing House. During our discussions I called his lawyer in Dallas, who confirmed that the manuscripts in question were among the documents of the de Mohrenschildt family in his office. The negotiations were to continue on March 8 in Bussum, when a televised report would also be discussed. On Saturday, March 5, I drove George de Mohrenschildt to Brussels for lunch at the Metropol Hotel. Before the meal George decided to take a walk from which he would never return.

Two days later I got a telephone call from Brussels saying somebody wanted to come and collect de Mohrenschildt's personal belongings. This of course I refused. At the moment these are in a safe at the Amsterdam-Rotterdam bank on Herengracht canal in Amsterdam.

Nothing in de Mohrenschildt's behavior that Saturday had indicated that he was planning to disappear in Brussels. His pocket change, his keys, and even his pipe all lay on his bed in his hotel room. All he had with him was an attache case which he always had with him, his American passport, and several thousand dollars in travelers checks which we obtained together from the Oak Cliff Bank and Trust Co. in Dallas.

My opinion was that, knowing that I would bring new information out into the open before the Assassinations Committee in Washington, D.C., he wanted to lay low somewhere in Europe until the storm had subsided. He had a definite appointment on March 15 with American author Edward

Epstein, who was to conduct a three-day interview with him on behalf of *Reader's Digest*. Four thousand dollars were to have been paid him for this interview—a sum he did not want to forego. "I also wanted to make a buck from the Kennedy murder," he said. "Up to now 150 books have been published about Dallas, Oswald, and me. So please let me share in the profits as well."

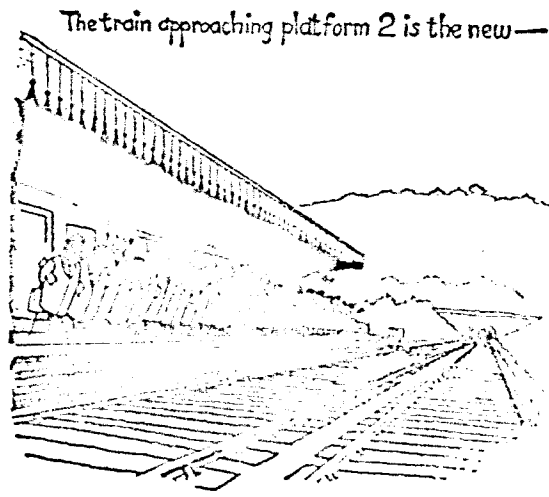
Another possibility appeared to be that he had fallen into the hands of parties interested in keeping the lid on JFK's assassination. The committee in Washington will have to find out whether Lee Harvey Oswald in consultation with George de Mohrenschildt had gathered a number of Cubans (previously involved with the CIA Bay of Pigs operation) to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas. According to several publications George over the years worked with various intelligence operations. Supposedly he was connected with the French Intelligence Service during World War II.

Seen in that light, I can well imagine that he planned this whole operation pretending to make a confession. He knew that I would immediately consult Netherlands TV in an attempt to record the information. It gave him an opportunity to leave the U.S., which he had been determined to do since the incident of the manuscript and the psychiatric clinic.

He had felt constantly threatened and, given the fate of other people directly or indirectly involved in the Kennedy case, this paranoia could hardly be called imaginary. He never gave an acceptable explanation of why he thought it necessary to leave his flat in Dallas in the middle of the night, except for saying, "I don't want anybody to see me." Before we were seated in the Pan Am 747 at Kennedy Airport to embark for London he was in a state of panic. He constantly worried whether "they" would let him leave the country. Only in Amsterdam was he able to relax somewhat, but even then he seemed nervous and jumpy. He always felt watched and followed. I really cannot see how somebody who does not have anything to hide would develop such behavior.

[George de Mohrenschildt was found dead of a gunshot wound, presumably a suicide, on March 29, 1977.] ■

March 25



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