

who could add new pieces to the jigsaw puzzle of Oswald's life.

The research done by the author and his team of investigators finds the secret world in which Oswald lived to be filled with military and political secrets, inextricably interwoven with spies, counterspies, and soldiers of fortune. The Freedom of Information Act facilitated research that enables the public to be made aware of information apparently either not available to the Warren Commission or which it felt should not be disclosed for reasons of national security.

This book is destined to have a major impact on readers by revealing an incredible series of secret accounts of spies, double agents, interrogation, and a series of events that turned the Central Intelligence Agency inside out.

Questions concerning whether Oswald was operating in the field of intelligence as a legend, which is an operational plan for a cover or a cover itself depending on the mission, are not answered. Readers will come to different conclusions about Oswald as a legend. I believe the picture of Oswald as a totally alienated individual obsessed

with political ideology and bent on self-destruction is the correct one.

The book does not provide any concrete evidence to support a conspiracy theory of Oswald as an agent of a foreign nation, yet with the information made available, that seems quite possible. The author does carefully explicate the activities of Oswald prior to the assassination and some of the hidden influences in his life. He describes Oswald's activities in Mexico less than eight weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy. These include a meeting with a Soviet intelligence officer in Mexico City and his involvement in September, 1963, with the Cuban embassy in Mexico City, where he furnished documentary evidence of his activities in the United States on behalf of Castro and offered his services to the "Revolution."

The failure of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to protect the president in Dallas on November 22, 1963, is painted in clear terms. On November 18 the F.B.I., which had an open security case on Oswald, intercepted a letter Oswald had written to the Soviet embassy in Washington stating that he had

LEGEND: THE SECRET WORLD OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD. By Edward Jay Epstein. Reader's Digest Press, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020. 1978. \$12.95. Pages 382. Reviewed by Arthur Marinelli, professor of business law, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

This book explores Oswald's relations with the intelligence agencies of three nations. It is the first new investigation of the life of Lee Harvey Oswald since the Warren Commission's inquest in 1964. In a two-year investigation conducted throughout the free world, more than 150 witnesses were located

traveled to Mexico under an alias and had "business" with the Soviet embassy in Cuba. In November he delivered a threatening note to the F.B.I. office in Dallas, and the agent handling the case there knew that he was working in a building on the president's route.

The F.B.I. did not fully investigate Oswald when he had returned from Russia at an earlier time. He had been permitted to work in a typesetting firm that did highly classified work for the Army Map Service and had been able to obtain a passport and travel freely to Mexico. After Oswald died from Jack Ruby's bullet, the F.B.I. supervisor, according to F.B.I. agent Hosty's sworn testimony, ordered Hosty to destroy both the note Oswald had delivered to the F.B.I. shortly before the assassination and the memorandum that Hosty had prepared about the incident.

The book provides interesting reading concerning the role of Yuri Nosenko, officially a member of the Soviet disarmament delegation, who less than two months after the Kennedy assassination defected to the West. Nosenko maintained that the Soviet Union could not be tied into the assas-

ination in any way. The Soviet Russia Division of the C.I.A. compiled its final report on Nosenko, which held that he was a Soviet intelligence agent dispatched by the Soviets for the purpose of delivering misinformation to the C.I.A., the F.B.I., and the Warren Commission. Eventually the C.I.A. made this man a consultant, although the Soviet Russia Division found him a misinformation agent in 1967.

The book is worth reading just to see how the Nosenko case brought about the deterioration of relationships between the C.I.A. and F.B.I., caused deep divisions in both services, altered the careers of high-ranking intelligence officers, and raised ominous questions about American security that have not been resolved to this day.

The book, an enormous research undertaking that has helped delineate the netherworld of contacts of Oswald, resulted from interviews with more than 400 people. Each chapter has extensive source notes. —ARTHUR MARINELLI

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