



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 89-35

Miami, Florida
April 13, 1977

RE: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

b7D On March 29, 1977, [REDACTED] Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, West Palm Beach, Florida, advised that his department is currently investigating a possible suicide at Manalapan involving one GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT which had occurred earlier this date. [REDACTED] advised that he was furnishing this information as he is aware that DE MOHRENSCHILDT has been in contact with one EDWARD P. EPSTEIN and that EPSTEIN is writing a book concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD and that apparently the purpose of the contacts between EPSTEIN and DE MOHRENSCHILDT is that DE MOHRENSCHILDT was formerly an associate or acquaintance of OSWALD.

Attempts were made on March 29, 1977 to locate EDWARD P. EPSTEIN in room 4179 of the Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach, Florida, however, he was not located, although he was still registered in this room.

b7D Later, on March 29, 1977, [REDACTED] in re-contact, advised that EPSTEIN was currently being interviewed by State Attorney DAVID BLUDWORTH and [REDACTED] of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office at Mr. BLUDWORTH's office.

b7D On March 29, 1977, [REDACTED] Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, West Palm Beach, Florida, advised that interview of EDWARD P. EPSTEIN had just been completed and that he had just departed. Additional attempts were made to locate Mr. EPSTEIN at the Breakers Hotel, however, he could not be located on March 29, 1977.

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Date of transcription 4/8/77

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EDWARD P. EPSTEIN was located on March 30, 1977 and was advised of the identities of SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and purpose of this interview.

EPSTEIN, located in Suite 4177-4179 of the Breakers Hotel, advised that he has been retained by "Readers Digest" to write a book on the life of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and that he is not particularly concerning himself with the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

EPSTEIN introduced his research assistant NANCY LENEAU, who was present during the course of this interview.

EPSTEIN stated that he has done extensive research concerning OSWALD's background and had planned to devote one chapter of the book to GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT, whom he had previously interviewed in Dallas, Texas during April, 1976.

EPSTEIN stated that DE MOHRENSCHILDT had had an association with LEE HARVEY OSWALD and MARINA OSWALD during 1962 and 1963 and that since that interview in April, 1976, he had done additional research into DE MOHRENSCHILDT's background and that two additional interviews of DE MOHRENSCHILDT had been planned but that DE MOHRENSCHILDT had not showed up.

EPSTEIN stated that recently DE MOHRENSCHILDT had telephonically contacted him in New York City and stated he wished to be re-interviewed in Palm Beach, Florida, and EPSTEIN said that although he was not really interested at this time, "Readers Digest" had instructed him to conduct the re-interview of DE MOHRENSCHILDT in Palm Beach, Florida, and would authorize him to pay

3/30/77, 3/31/77 and 4/1/77 of Palm Beach, Florida File # Miami 89-35
by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] JSA/jjl Date dictated 4/6/77

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DE MOHRENSCHILDT a total of \$4,000 following completion of this interview.

EPSTEIN stated he had traveled to Palm Beach, Florida and that DE MOHRENSCHILDT had come to the Breakers Hotel the afternoon of March 28, 1977 and that he, EPSTEIN, having considerable background, had "thrown" a number of names at DE MOHRENSCHILDT to get his reaction and to determine if these individuals were or were not closely associated with DE MOHRENSCHILDT and if they would, in DE MOHRENSCHILDT's opinion, have any knowledge which would be helpful in the book concerning OSWALD.

EPSTEIN stated that in his opinion, DE MOHRENSCHILDT had little reaction to names mentioned, however, did acknowledge association with a number of the names and then had explained his relationship with the various individuals.

EPSTEIN stated that he had then talked to DE MOHRENSCHILDT again from 10:00 a.m. March 29, 1977 until 1:00 p.m. that date, again here at the Breakers Hotel, and that the only revelation of any value in his opinion coming from the interviews of March 28, 1977 and March 29, 1977 were statements of DE MOHRENSCHILDT which concerned the original of a photograph of OSWALD which had previously appeared on the cover of "Life" magazine.

EPSTEIN explained that this was a photograph of OSWALD holding a rifle equipped with a scope sight and that DE MOHRENSCHILDT had explained that he possessed the original of the photograph and that "Life" magazine had obtained a copy of the photograph from MARINA OSWALD. DE MOHRENSCHILDT stated that during his early association with the OSWALDs, he had lent them a number of phonograph records which dealt with the Russian and English language and that when these phonograph records were later returned to him by MARINA OSWALD, he found the original of this photograph mixed in with the phonograph records.

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EPSTEIN related that DE MOHRENSCHILDT told him that the original of this photograph was now in possession of his attorney, PATRICK RUSSELL, JR., 3409 Oaklawn, Dallas, Texas, along with 10 tapes and a manuscript which he, DE MOHRENSCHILDT, had prepared concerning his prior association with OSWALD.

According to EPSTEIN, DE MOHRENSCHILDT claimed that 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 was written in the Russian language:

"To the fascist hunter" or "Long Live the Assassin".

DE MOHRENSCHILDT told EPSTEIN that shortly after someone had taken a shot at General EDWIN WALKER, he and Mrs. JEANNE DE MOHRENSCHILDT had gone to the OSWALD residence in Dallas, Texas to take some baby clothes to MARINA and that Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT being shown throughout the house by MARINA had returned to the living area of the house where he and LEE HARVEY OSWALD were talking and that Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT had remarked that she had observed a rifle with a sight on it in the other room and that Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT had humorously remarked to OSWALD "Did you take a pot shot at General WALKER?" or may possibly have said "Why did you miss?" and although the question was meant humorously, OSWALD had acted strangely and that the DE MOHRENSCHILDTs had left the OSWALD residence shortly thereafter.

EPSTEIN stated that he was not too impressed with the information from DE MOHRENSCHILDT about the photograph but that he had related this to the "Readers Digest" office on March 28, 1977 and that attorney RUSSELL had been contacted in Dallas, Texas by the New York office of "Readers Digest" and that RUSSELL claimed he did have such a photograph and that it "was available for money".

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EPSTEIN stated that it would be difficult, in his opinion, to actually establish who had written the alleged messages on the photograph or the actual time the alleged message was written if, in fact, these messages do appear on such a photograph.

EPSTEIN stated that during his contact with DE MOHRENSCHILDT March 28, 1977 and March 29, 1977, he had exhibited a copy of an article in the March 20, 1977 "Dallas Morning News" to DE MOHRENSCHILDT which concerned DE MOHRENSCHILDT's previous commitment in the Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas from November 9, 1976 until approximately December 30, 1976 and EPSTEIN related that he was sorry after he had showed the article to DE MOHRENSCHILDT as it appeared to disturb him quite a bit.

EPSTEIN stated he is unable to advance a theory as to why DE MOHRENSCHILDT committed suicide approximately 2:30 p.m. on March 29, 1977 and that DE MOHRENSCHILDT was due back at the Breakers Hotel from Manalapan, Florida at 3:00 p.m. to continue the interview.

EPSTEIN stated that while DE MOHRENSCHILDT appeared much better during this interview than during the April, 1976 interview, he does feel that DE MOHRENSCHILDT was to some degree mentally disturbed.

EPSTEIN, in re-contact on March 31, 1977, advised that during a lengthy interview the night of March 29, 1977 with the State's Attorney DAVID BLUDWORTH and officers of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, he may have said something that would indicate that DE MOHRENSCHILDT had indicated that he, DE MOHRENSCHILDT, had maneuvered LEE HARVEY OSWALD and claimed to have put OSWALD in touch with the "right people", however, he did not mean to mislead the State Attorney or others and that in his dealings with DE MOHRENSCHILDT, DE MOHRENSCHILDT had never indicated that he had put LEE HARVEY OSWALD in touch with terrorists or

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potential assassins but he had indicated to EPSTEIN that he was quite fond of OSWALD and his wife and claimed to have put OSWALD in touch with and introduced him to people that could help him.

OSWALD stated that he maintained from DE MOHRENSCHILDT's references to these occasions that he meant he had introduced him to business people, people involved in education, job prospects, and the like and EPSTEIN repeated that at no time did he get the impression in interviews of DE MOHRENSCHILDT that he had ever introduced OSWALD to terrorists, potential assassins or individuals advocating overthrow of the Government.

On April 1, 1977 Mr. EPSTEIN advised he was not able to furnish any additional facts and that he definitely desires to have his opinion noted that DE MOHRENSCHILDT was not in any way implicated in any conspiracies with OSWALD and that he is of the personal opinion through research and knowledge of DE MOHRENSCHILDT's activities that there had been no contact between he and OSWALD after April, 1963.

EPSTEIN did state the he was to some degree upset when he found out that DE MOHRENSCHILDT had apparently had contacts with other writers and journalists while dealing with him, EPSTEIN, and did have knowledge that DE MOHRENSCHILDT had recently been in touch with a Dutch journalist WILLEM OLTMANS, however, from remarks of DE MOHRENSCHILDT was "fed up" with OLTMANS and had indicated that OLTMANS was trying to put words in his mouth and have him make statements and EPSTEIN interpreted this to mean that OLTMANS wanted DE MOHRENSCHILDT to embellish on his relationship with LEE HARVEY OSWALD and possibly indicated some knowledge of his conspiracy or previous knowledge of OSWALD's intended activities.

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EPSTEIN advised that he can always be reached through New York telephone numbers [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or through the "Readers Digest" editor FULTON TONY OSLER, New York telephone number (914) 769-7000.

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