

Oswald motive

still unknown

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The writer is co-author of a book on the Kennedy assassination as well as a series of articles based on the 26-volume Warren Report.

By SID MOODY

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some time earlier, when there were only ominous hints of the eruption to come, Marina Oswald asked her husband: "What are you trying to do, start another revolution?"

His reply is not recorded.

Not in 14 years, not in 40,001 pages of just-released FBI files, has it been determined what Lee Harvey Oswald was trying to do.

The FBI files were made public last Wednesday. They weigh half a ton. Another half ton will be released in January.

THEY ARE MATTER of fact. They jump to no conclusions.

They do no damage to the belief that Oswald, impelled by some demon within his unhappy mind, murdered President John F. Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, that he did so without the aid or urging of any other person. The files do catalog an exhaustive, and exhausting, investigation to establish otherwise — that there was a conspiracy.

The search led everywhere. Bars. Motels. Telephone offices. Even, tantalizingly but never definitively, into Oswald's mind.

The finding was the same as the Warren Commission's: No conspiracy.

THIS IS NOT surprising. Much of the Warren Report was based on FBI work. Many of the FBI files also appear in that 26 volume report.

The immensity of the files bears witness to the vast consequences of six seconds of madness in Dallas.

We learn from the files that two Ian Fleming novels were found in Oswald's room: "Live and Let Die" and "The Spy Who Loved Me." We read again that a bullet fired at Gen. Edwin A. Walker, a conservative activist in Dallas, was the same caliber as a rifle possessed by Oswald and used to slay the president.

We read from the files Oswald told his wife that he could kill. "Hitler needed killing," he said. We read that, as a returned self-exile from Russia, he addressed seminarians at Springhill College in Mobile, Ala., at the invitation of his cousin. He said no one in the United States was concerned with the working man.

WE READ OF hostility weaving through his life like a trail of burning powder. The portentous diagnosis of starved emotions and violent fantasies and psychosis while still in grade school. Withdrawal punctuated by aggressive outbursts in the Marines. Wandering, always wandering, toward — what? What does this tell us?

The files don't say. It is too much to ask that they do.

SOMETHING new still might turn up some day. But so far, the government conclusion that a communist killed the president stands.

At least that's what the files report Oswald thought he was.

Whatever else he was, at his fundament, the files don't say.