

# Why FBI 'Watched' Assassination Author

Dallas

SFC 12/19/77 p.7

The author of a best-selling book on accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was under FBI investigation a month prior to President John Kennedy's death as a possible recruit for Russian intelligence, according to the Dallas Morning News' copyrighted story.

Priscilla Johnson McMillan wrote the book "Marina and Lee" based partly on interviews with Oswald's widow, Marina, said she "didn't know they (the FBI) were watching me" prior to the 1963 assassination, the News said.

According to FBI documents now declassified, McMillan, 49, was also interviewed by federal agents as an assassination "suspect" one day after Oswald allegedly shot the President.

The newspaper said McMillan met Oswald after he defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, while she was a freelance writer. When the FBI agents talked to her in 1963, she said she "showed them my interview notes with Oswald." The notes were photographed by the FBI and later the State Department.

The segment of the FBI's talks with McMillan about the Oswald interview appeared in the Warren Commission volumes, the News said. The commission determined that Oswald acted alone in Kennedy's assassination.

However, there was mention of the FBI's suspicion that McMillan may have been involved in the assassination in the commission's report. The FBI's information on her did not appear until the 40,001 pages of assassination records were declassified earlier this month.

The FBI began showing an interest in McMillan in late October, 1963 — about a year after she had returned to the United States from her second visit to the Soviet Union.

J. Edgar Hoover, then director

of the FBI, received the first of four letters Oct. 26, 1963, in connection with an unsubstantiated report that McMillan was "of interest to KGB (Soviet intelligence) for possible recruitment."

McMillan said a possible FBI source may have been Llewellyn Thompson, U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union.

McMillan said she had told Thompson the "whole story" about how some Soviets tried unsuccessfully to get information from her during her first Soviet visit from 1958 to 1960.

Associated Press