

Oswald friend labeled CIA informant in memo

Compiled from staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON — George de Mohrenschildt, a former Dallas college professor who knew Lee Harvey Oswald "intimately" in the months before the death of John F. Kennedy, was a CIA informant, according to once-secret intelligence memos.

De Mohrenschildt was considered a key witness by the House Assassinations Committee when he died of a gunshot wound to the head in March 1977 in Manalapan, Fla. In what local authorities said was an apparent suicide.

Renewed interest in de Mohrenschildt surfaced because of an interview he gave to a Dutch journalist at Bishop College in Dallas, where he taught French and Russian.

At the time, Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., a committee member, said de Mohrenschildt was a "crucial witness" based on the new information he had. He knew Oswald intimately.

Some conspiracy advocates believe de Mohrenschildt could have provided evidence that Oswald was not acting alone, as the Warren Commission concluded he did, in killing Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. The committee's public hearings this fall are expected to review the de Mohrenschildt case.

De Mohrenschildt was living in the Dallas area when Oswald returned from

a 2½-year stay in the Soviet Union in June 1962, and the memo said he and his wife became "well acquainted" with the Oswalds.

The Russian-born de Mohrenschildt was a Bishop College professor until he left March 1, 1977, on a three-day leave to visit a sick daughter in New Orleans. He never returned to the campus.

Nine days later he was found dead in a posh, ocean-front mansion that belonged to his sister-in-law in Manalapan.

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George de Mohrenschildt... died of gunshot wound

De Mohrenschildt termed informant

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CIA ties came in documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by Michael Levy, a 31-year-old freelance researcher.

One memo by Richard Helms, then CIA deputy director for plans, said de Mohrenschildt, a Russian-born petroleum geologist, applied for a job with the CIA in 1942 but was rejected "because he was alleged to be a Nazi espionage agent."

Helms, who later became CIA director, also said de Mohrenschildt took a 1967 trip to Yugoslavia and provided the CIA with "foreign intelligence which was promptly disseminated to other federal agencies in 10 separate reports."

A separate memo indicated de Mohrenschildt also furnished lengthy reports to the CIA on his 1968 travels through Mexico and Panama.

A CIA memo, whose author was deleted, described de Mohrenschildt as a "dubious character," citing his alleged Communist sympathies.

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