

ained to his present unhappy condition. The former valiant soldier who had sustained wounds on three occasions in defense of his Country had become so completely altered that he announced himself in open court to be a Communist. He had made one serious attempt to kill himself but failed.

Most sincerely yours,

Richard C. Nagell

IN THE
United States Court of
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 21620

RICHARD CASE NAGELL

verum



23 November

...the exact date
Special Agent of the FBI
himself into the assassin
answer any questions, at
Mr. White. And I made it
Secret Service in the presen
I think this can be checked
Service Division - because that
was known as...

Richard C. Nagell
25 Grand Avenue
First, Long Island
York

Mr. Nagell:
Registered letter
...have been
...my f...
...dated

NOV 12 1963
U.S. MAIL
Postmaster: Return to
Richard C. Nagell
25 Grand Avenue
Long Island City
New York 11101

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

The inside story

(WHAT THE CONTROLLED PRESS AND OFFICIAL REPORTS FORGOT TO MENTION)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Appellee.
United States Court of Appeals
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT
No. 21620

RICHARD CASE NAGELL, Appellant.
Nagell also refused to
sign a statement
yesterday after
a plainclothesman put it
in front of him at the
time of day.
Sincerely yours
Richard C. Nagell

Richard C. Nagell
"Your Life Will Be in Danger,
Chinese Trader Warned During
Assassination of Kennedy"

E. Germany Frees U.S. Ex-Officer

BERLIN, Oct. 24 (AP)—East Germany has released a former U.S. Army captain it held for four months. Informed sources said Richard C. Nagell was taken off a train between East and West Berlin yesterday in the presence of East German attorney Riecy S. Newberg and an official from the U.S. Mission in West Berlin. A U.S. spokesman said Nagell left in plane today for the United States. Nagell was described as a Californian and a former U.S. Army captain who left the service in 1950. An airplane crash near Frankfurt Airport that killed servicemen.

The Commission Assassination of Kennedy

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...however temporary...
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...to read...
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...Garrison. It was...
...able to separate...
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...staff and asked...
...of my opinions...
I have today spoken
Mr. Garrison, and I
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three volumes in the
I do not take the New York
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...of the United States...
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...record he would like to say that his...
...association with OSWALD concerned...
...LEE HARVEY OSWALD was purch...
...social and that he had met him in Mexi...
...City and in Texas" (CD 197). Another...
...report states that when the prisoner was...
...being led from court on January 24...
...1964 he "made wild accusations to news...
...paper reporters, accusing the FBI of not...
...attempting to prevent the assassination...
...of President Kennedy." (CD 304)

...to three...
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I have today spoken
Mr. Garrison, and I
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I do not take the New York
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Committed Name: NAGELL, Richard Case
The record also indicates that Nagell was...
...of the Communist Party. Nagell, in the course of his interview...

Army Denies CIA Link
EL PASO HERALD POST, September 21, 1963



UNITED STATES
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
201 East
New York
Decor

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE - C. Nagell
New

28 January 1970
Washington, D.C.

An editor of a trade journal, whom I first met while on an intelligence assignment in Latin America, has urged me for some time to make public the facts dealing with my involvement in a conspiracy to murder the late Chief Executive, John F. Kennedy, in 1963 and the circumstances surrounding my arrest and imprisonment in the United States and East Germany. For reasons that are more personal than advisable I can think of little else that I would like to do better. But with the copious amount of documentation and background material on hand, that I feel should be adduced to in any valid treatise of the subject, it would require writing no less than a tome, an undertaking for which I am hardly qualified. Then, too, there is a growing skepticism on my part concerning the kind of reception that a topic of this sort would elicit from a society long since inured to violence, corruption and injustice. Still, after over six years of relative silence, I've decided that I must say something about all this, if only to answer the lies and distortions concocted about me in the press. Thus, I have compiled this small booklet, a throwaway, which may be easily discarded at the whim of the reader. In it I've taken the liberty to set forth a reproduction of one of the least sanitized references to my case that has appeared in the news media, an article printed last summer in the OVERSEAS FAMILY, a weekly tabloid catering to U.S. servicemen in Europe. I have utilized this particular article as a vehicle to tell a bit of my side of the story by writing an addendum to it.

R. C. Nagell

'I want to find my children'

Ex-Army spook who fingered Oswald claims Uncle Sam hides his family / by Thomas C. Lucey

UNCLE SAM has given Richard Case Nagell three Purple Hearts — one earned on Christmas Day — and a medal for heroism in combat.

But what this ex-Army counterspy and alleged CIA undercoverman wants is that Uncle keep a promise to locate his wife and two small children.

The 38-year-old former officer hasn't seen them since 1963.

Officials inside the Federal Government — most likely FBI and CIA agents — know where they are and deliberately isolated him from his family, the tall, lean chain-smoker claims.

Nagell became separated from his Japanese-born wife Mitsuko Takahashi and their children, Teresa, now 9, and Robert, now 8, when he was arrested for robbing an El Paso, Tex., bank in September 1963.

He staged the robbery and immediately surrendered to the police, Nagell claims, because he had refused to kill Kennedy-assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and

was afraid he would be killed himself.

The ex-Army captain was convicted of the crime and sent to Leavenworth, but Mrs. Nagell was never told where he was.

Since then Nagell has been written about in national American magazines and has worked his way inside a political prison in Communist East Germany for the CIA.

Two major magazines intimated that Nagell had been insane.

New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison allegedly interviewed Nagell three times in his controversial probe of what he called the plot to kill Kennedy.

However, despite all the publicity about Nagell, no public mention has been made of his charges that:

► FBI special agents who questioned Mrs. Nagell about her husband while he was in prison said they didn't know where he was;

► The CIA used the promise of reuniting Nagell with his family as part of the incentive for him to undertake a one-man

CIA assignment inside East Germany.

Nagell came to Europe in February 1969 on a hunch that the path to his family started in West Berlin. In Zurich he was almost killed, he says. In Barcelona, he was watched. And in West Berlin he was attacked in a side-street bar by two strangers — one of whom had been following him for two days — and hit on the top of his head so hard a molar cracked in half.

Fearing that the next attacker might murder him and reassured that the Government would finally keep its promise this time, Nagell flew home to the United States.

Now he's back where he started in 1963 — when he tipped off the FBI that Oswald was planning to assassinate President Kennedy.

Working through a source with access to documents on the Nagell case, **The FAMILY** has been able to reconstruct this incredible story of the spy who couldn't come in from the cold.

RICHARD CASE Nagell first went to work for the CIA as an informant in August 1962.

"Some publications have identified him as a CIA agent," the **FAMILY** source said. "But Nagell never claimed to be a CIA agent. For the year that he worked off and on for the CIA the first time, he was never told what he was. But it was in the capacity of an investigator or informant."

Nagell had a good background for investigative and undercover assignments.

In the Army, he was a CIC captain who worked in field offices in the United States and with the then super hush-hush Field Operations Intelligence in Japan and Korea.

He had made captain with a battlefield commission during the Korean War at the age of 22 — possibly the youngest man to earn that distinction. Nagell served two volunteer combat tours as an infantryman in Korea, signing up for the second as soon as he returned to the States from the first. It was in Korea that he won the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

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During a subsequent tour in the Far East with the CIC and FCI, Nagell met and married his Japanese wife in the spring of 1959. Being married to a foreign national meant an automatic removal from intelligence work so Nagell decided to leave the Army.

For two years he was a California state special investigator, working on fraud cases and liquor violations.

In the summer of 1962 he left that job to work for the CIA.

His last assignment was to persuade the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, where he met Oswald. Nagell also briefly investigated Oswald's Russian-born wife Marisa.

Nagell considered Oswald intelligent, "but some right-wingers were using him by feeding his ego. They made him think he was a big man, important. Oswald himself was definitely a left-winger, leaning toward Mao or maybe even Castro. He wasn't pro Moscow. He liked the Russians."

"And when Oswald said he was going to do something, you knew he meant it."

In September Oswald told Nagell, "We will kill him before the month is out."

The "we," according to Nagell, were Oswald and two Latins — possibly Cubans — who belonged to anti-Castro organizations in the United States.

"Him" was President Kennedy. Nagell reported the threat to a man known only as Bob, his CIA contact. According to **The FAMILY**'s source, "Nagell's instructions were to take care of

Oswald. He told him he was an intelligence man, not a killer, and he couldn't kill Oswald.

"Threats were made to Nagell which indicated to him that he had better do what he had been instructed to do.

"Instead, he wrote about Oswald's assassination plans to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover in Washington. Hoover didn't reply, but Nagell didn't expect

to be arrested. He expected to be held briefly for discharging a firearm on Federally insured property. By that time the assassination would be over and he'd be safe.

Apparently Nagell felt police custody would keep him safe from the CIA and from the assassins. He feared the CIA because he didn't "take care of" Oswald. He feared the

penitentiary," the source smiled. "All you have to do is be there."

The source continued: "In 1966 Nagell's sister wrote that she had had a letter from his wife. She wanted to know where her husband was and why hadn't she heard from him."

"Here is the sticky part. In Mrs. Nagell's letter she said

Richard Nagell: a self-deluded crank or

him to. He wanted that letter as a matter of record.

"After Nagell's tip, the FBI questioned Oswald and released him as not being a danger or a threat."

Two months later Nagell heard the assassination news bulletin on the radio "The FBI screwed up," he explained. "That was Oswald!" This was before there was any public mention of Oswald.

"After the assassination the FBI tried to clean their skirts." **The FAMILY** was told, "FBI agents insisted to Nagell that he hadn't told them this about Oswald or that about Oswald. But he had."

By this time Nagell was in Leavenworth penitentiary.

On Sept. 20, 1963, six days before what Nagell thought was to be the assassination date, he went into an El Paso bank, shot one bullet into the ceiling and waited outside to

assassins because he might be considered one of them.

But the police held Nagell longer than six days.

He was tried twice, in May 1964 and September 1966, for attempted robbery with force and violence and sentenced to the maximum of 10 years.

"I was bum-rapped," Nagell complained.

"The court instructed that any attorneys retained by his relatives would have to come under the supervision and control of court-appointed attorneys," **The FAMILY**'s source said. "In effect, this denied him counsel of his choice all during prison."

As prisoner A-83286-1, Nagell was allowed to write to only his sister and a friend. He couldn't get an explanation why he wasn't allowed mail from or to his wife and children. "They don't explain to you in Leavenworth peni-

the FBI had questioned her a few days before about her husband's activities in the Army. The FBI knew where Nagell was but didn't tell his wife."

The letter had been sent from a Hollywood post office box and Nagell tried unsuccessfully to trace it after he got out of Leavenworth.

On April 29, 1968, after 4 1/2 years in prison, Nagell was released after he had won an acquittal on appeal and flew to New York.

"We pulled a lot of strings to get your freedom," said a man who met Nagell when he landed at Kennedy Airport. The man and his nontalking partner gave Nagell \$500 in \$20 bills. "More will come where this comes from," the unidentified man promised. "We appreciate your cooperation in prison."

"To this day," the source told **The FAMILY**, "Nagell



Richard Nagell



Jim Garrison



Oswald and guards

CAST OF CHARACTERS: Richard Nagell was questioned by New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison because Nagell claims he fingered Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald while working for the CIA. Nagell also says U.S. Government officials isolated him from his two children after the assassination.



Nagell's children

still has not got the money promised him for his imprisonment in the United States."

In New York Nagell kept an appointment with a CIA official he knew only as Buchel. The CIA official told Nagell he had heard that his wife had divorced him while he was in Leavenworth.

"It might be true," the source

through East Germany and he would be arrested.

"The main objective of his imprisonment was twofold: One concerned a U.S. naval officer who had allegedly defected and Nagell had to find out if he was there. But his main purpose was to get as much information as possible on techniques of interrogation and methods of treatment of

were talking about. So they took him off the train because he didn't have a valid transit visa.

"They drove to Erfurt (an East German city), where Nagell was held for three days in a safe house to private home used as a cover for intelligence purposes. There some men in civilian clothes questioned Nagell

fred to him as Sandkrug-bruecke."

Waiting to meet Nagell were, according to the source:

- Andor Klay, head of the Eastern Affairs Section of the U.S. Mission in Berlin;
- Wolfgang Vogel, a well-known East Berlin lawyer who participated on the Feb. 10, 1967, exchange of Soviet master spy Col. Rudolf Abel and American U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, and other spies and accused spies.

- Henry S. New, a wealthy Washington lawyer, supposedly "a representative, not a member, of the CIA";
- Bruce A. Flatin, head of the U.S. Berlin Mission's public safety section, allegedly "a longtime CIA member, and Flatin is not his real name";
- Dr. (Capt. — now Maj) George Raymond Babineau, a psychiatrist at the U.S. Army Hospital in Berlin, who appeared in civilian clothes, and
- An unidentified man.

Nagell was driven to the U.S. Mission at 170 Clay Alley and interviewed by Babineau.

"That was probably because Nagell had played crazy with the East Germans," the source said.

Washington lawyer New was also present.

"Somebody brought Nagell a cup of coffee," the source continued. "Nobody else had coffee. Nagell drank a small portion of his coffee. It was black but it tasted more bitter than ordinary coffee. Approximately five minutes later he

began feeling sleepy and thought he was under the influence of a drug. He went to the bathroom and looked at his eyes in a mirror. They were almost pinpoints and he was feeling exceedingly sleepy.

"I was in the room he asked, 'Did anybody put something in my coffee?'"

"Mr. Babineau said no; New said nothing. Nagell began to feel so sleepy he had to occasionally stand up to stay awake. Finally he asked to be examined by a civilian psychiatrist if there was any question of his sanity.

"No," the doctor said, "as far as I'm concerned you're free to go."

"New spoke to the doctor in a corner — the doctor kept shaking his head no — and then New told Nagell, 'I think you ought to leave for the United States. The German newspapers are going to pick this thing up any moment and might want to talk to you. I don't think you should talk to them.'"

"Nagell said he wanted to go back to Zurich first to pick up his belongings — to be exact, certain documents in a safe deposit box. Nagell keeps records, plenty of them."

When Nagell was driven to Tempelhof Airport, New accompanied him and waited until he boarded the plane. Some time during their talk New asked Nagell about his disability. Nagell was getting a 60 percent disability for service-

(Continued on Next Page)

the victim of dagger-in-the-back CIA tactics?

noted, "but wouldn't it be nice for Nagell to know for sure. He assumes his children are still with his wife."

Nagell met Buchel to be briefed for another CIA assignment.

Why did he go back to the CIA?

"It was the only practical thing for him to do," the source said, "because of his financial situation."

Almost a month to the day after he arrived in New York Nagell jettied to Zurich.

"During his last week of discussions with Buchel and another man in New York,"

The FAMILY's source said, "it was Nagell's understanding that he was to have himself arrested by East German authorities. All he had to do was buy a train ticket from Zurich, Switzerland, to East Berlin. The train would go

the MIS (East German Ministry for State Security)."

Everything went according to the CIA's plan — up to a point.

In Zurich, Nagell reported to his CIA contact in the American Consulate General. About the only thing the CIA agent seems to have said to Nagell was to ask him the train compartment number on his reservation. Nagell told him, No. 46.

Early in the morning of June 10, 1968, around 12:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., Nagell's train stopped after crossing the East German border.

"He could hear people get on the train and clomp down the aisle, directly to his compartment," the source said.

"There were two men in uniform and two men in civilian clothes. They asked Nagell for his passport by name. Then they asked for his transit visa. He didn't know what they

"Next he was driven to an East Berlin political prison for extensive interrogation. They accused him of espionage and said they were going to try him."

"Nagell had been told that if he was in East Germany for over three months, his release would be effected by the agency (CIA), but he was not told how. On his own he started to play crazy because he was there over four and a half months and he began to think there was another reason for his being there. He felt the CIA had deserted him and that, quite frankly, he had been sent in Germany to get him out of sight or to get rid of him."

"He was released on October 23. He didn't know he was going to be released until he was taken out of prison and driven to a Berlin checkpoint identi-



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The Nagell Affair . . .

'You must get out of Berlin!'

(Continued From Page 13)

connected injuries - and New promised him help in getting a disability retirement.

"But," the source added, New also told Nagell: "Of course, this offer of help in getting a disability retirement is predicated on your staying away from the news media."

On the afternoon flight to Stuttgart Nagell fell asleep, convincing him that he had been given a drug or a barbiturate.

Because of fog he didn't get to Zurich until 4 a.m. and "he was feeling extremely sick," the source said. "He rested for a few hours and went to the U.S. Consulate General. New had told him to stay away from the consulate in Zurich because 'they will question you and send it to Washington.' Nagell couldn't understand New's reasoning, but he went to the consulate to get a doctor, not to tell them about Berlin. He was drastically sick and wanted a doctor. He thought he was dying."

Referred to a civilian doctor, Nagell was told "he had been given an overdose of Secenal, a most potent sleeping drug."

Nagell was sick for about six days.

Meanwhile, he was also waiting to hear from New, who had promised to phone him in two

or three days. Nagell had told him he wanted the search for his family to be agreed upon before he returned to the States.

Twice Nagell called New's room at the Berlin Hilton. First New was "unavailable," then he had checked out for the U.S. (Later, back in Washington, New allegedly explained it had been "unadvisable" to go to Zurich because the East Germans might have tapped his phone and he didn't want them to know Nagell was there. Nagell didn't buy that.)

With New not showing up to discuss the search for his family, Nagell violated his instructions and went to the consulate for help.

On his first visit Nagell found "they had a classified file on him and knew he had been in East Berlin," the source continued. "But he refused to answer questions about his imprisonment and told them about New's promise."

"The next time, he told the consulate he was angry that he had not heard from New and that if he didn't get help he was going to the news media. This is when he was offered State Department help in locating his family - predicated on his early return to the United States. Nagell agreed and flew back to New York."

In New York, Nagell waited about two or three weeks to hear from the State Dept. When he didn't he contacted a State Dept. agency in New York and was allegedly told that a letter would be sent to Washington.

"That was the last time Nagell heard from them," the source said. "He never received a copy of the letter to Washington, as promised, and they were always unavailable when he called."

Meanwhile, Nagell was seeing New in Washington and called in person at the State Dept.

"They told him that the State Department didn't have the facilities to search for the children," the source said, "but on account of the circumstances surrounding the case and because one of our employees apparently made a promise in Zurich," they would conduct a search for his children and determine whether he was married or divorced.

"He never heard from them again. When he called they were quite unavailable unquote."

Through a lawyer in New's office, described as a luxurious suite visited by Pentagon officers in civilian clothes, Nagell got an appointment at the VA for "a two and a half minute physical with his clothes on," according to the source. "Two hours later he was awarded a 100 percent disability allowance for a nervous condition."

"Nagell went back to New and told him they wanted to tag him (Nagell) with a nervous condition to destroy his credibility."

For good reason, Nagell worried that a nervous condition might be used to tag him at a nut who didn't know what he was talking about.

In July 1968, while Nagell was in the Communist prison, Edward Jay Epstein, author of a book on the Warren Commission, wrote an article in the New York magazine attacking New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Epstein described Nagell as

"another witness found in the mail (of crank letters, publicity seekers and bogus tips) . . . an inmate of a Federal institution for the criminally insane in Springfield, Miss. . . court records indicated that Nagell had suffered brain damage in an airplane crash in 1957."

Nagell's rebuttal:
● He was sent to the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield to determine whether he could stand trial and when he was up for parole;

● On each occasion he was found mentally competent;

● In 1954 (not in 1957) he was the only survivor of a 152 crash at Baltimore's Friendship Airport (not in Cambodia, as reported in Ramparts magazine by former FBI agent William W. Turner);

● After hospitalization he returned to Army Intelligence School, received a top secret clearance and was assigned to the CIA;

● A June 17, 1968, psychiatric report from the Springfield Medical Center stated there was no "evidence or finding suggestive of brain damage."

All this run-around in Washington convinced Nagell that no one in the States was going to help him find his family. He decided to return to Europe.

In Zurich someone tried to kill him

On Feb 21 of this year he flew from Mexico City to Zurich. But the vice-consul who had promised State Dept. help last fall was no longer there. Nagell asked for the man he claimed to be the CIA station chief. He, too, was gone.

Sent to the consulate's political section, Nagell told them of the promises he'd been given and threatened to go to Swiss newspapers about a CIA agent in Bern, the Swiss capital.

"A member of the consulate asked Nagell to give them two weeks and teleaxed Washington," the source said. "But then one night there was an attempt on Nagell's life and he left for Barcelona the next day."

"There he contacted the U.S. Consulate General and told them why he had left Zurich. Nagell asked that Zurich's reply from Washington be sent to Barcelona."

"Nagell was in Barcelona for two weeks. But then he realized he was being watched and left to see an ex-Army intelligence officer at the American Embassy in Madrid."

"Again he stayed for two weeks. The embassy gave him no satisfaction, not even telling him what Washington had said. So he decided to go back to Berlin where this thing started and made some promises to himself - one of them being that if he didn't find his children he would go to the news media."

He was referred to Andor Klav and Bruce Flatin, two of the men who had met Nagell when he came from East Berlin, and eventually to a

Kenneth Hill in the passport section.

"A week or two later," the source continued, "they finally got confirmation from Washington that they had been unable to locate Nagell's children so far but were continuing their efforts."

"So he finally agreed to go back to the States as long as the State Department was continuing their efforts."

"Pointing out that he had spent a great deal of his money 'running around,' Nagell asked for Government transportation home and was refused."

On April 19 or 20 Nagell realized he was under surveillance.

"Around 10:30 on the night of April 22, Nagell was walking down Kurfuerstendamm when he lost his tail," the source continued. "They just disappeared. He didn't try to lose them."

"Nagell then went down a side street and into a small restaurant with a bar."

"He ordered a beer and was standing at the bar, talking to a guy on his right, when he saw the door open and two men came directly toward him."

"Nagell was getting ready to tell the men he didn't speak German when he saw one pick something out of his pocket and swing at him. Nagell turned and was hit on the back of the head."

Police took Nagell to the Albrecht Achilles Hospital. When he told the Germans he thought he had been hit by the CIA, "they called an American from the CID, a British representative (apparently the side street was in the British Sector) and a member of the Berlin political police."

Around midnight Nagell went to the U.S. Mission and asked for Hill in the passport section. Instead, he got the Army staff duty officer and a CIC agent.

"He gave his bloody shirt and T shirt in a bag to the CIC agent," the source said, "and told him to give it to Hill."

"If something happens to me," he told the agent, "the responsibility is going to be pinned because I'm going to the papers."

"Back in his hotel, Nagell was worried that he was going to be killed."

In the morning he went to the Army hospital and then to Hill in the consulate.

"Hill had the bloody clothing. 'You must get out of Berlin,' he told Nagell. 'We cannot give you protection here. The German police think it's either mistaken identity or the MS.'"

"Last night I thought somebody wanted to kill me," Nagell replied. "Now I take it as (only) a warning."

Galer, Hill told **The FAMILY** he considered Nagell merely "a private American citizen traveling abroad." He added "Ninety-nine and a half percent of his story is fantasy." Hill confirmed that he had received Nagell's bloody clothing and that Nagell had come to him with a stitched-up head wound. But he would only say that the attack "is his story, not that I have any other story about it."

But shortly after that Nagell was placed on orders as an ambulatory patient and sent on the Berlin duty train to Frankfurt. His orders also put him on a military flight back to the States.

That's where he apparently is now.

But he still doesn't know if he's married or divorced and the whereabouts of his children.

In this addendum to the OVERSEAS FAMILY article, I have not sought to refute or confirm each and every assertion made by its author, Thomas C. Lucey. Mr. Lucey, despite his citing a substantial number of inaccuracies, has nonetheless depicted a vast area of what may be termed the fundamental truth. With this in mind, I have tried to set the record straight only insofar as it pertains to those inaccuracies - and omissions - which in my opinion reflect adversely on the whole.

In order to view Mr. Lucey's account in a somewhat different perspective, I shall begin by advising that I first went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency much earlier than August 1962. It was during the winter of 1955-56, while assigned as a Case Review Officer with the Counter Intelligence Corps at Los Angeles, that I was initially recruited into the CIA's farflung network of informants and agents, one of a number, I suppose, within the Defense Department's intelligence community who helped the Agency keep an eye on its not always tame competitor. My recruitment was handled by a Herbert Leibacher, an agent of the CIA's Los Angeles office, and a Joe DeVanon, later identified to me through photographs as an official from CIA headquarters, then located on "E" street in Washington, D.C. Motivated by a degree of naivete and the Agency's subtle reminders that I owed a greater duty to my country than to the military establishment, I served as a non-paid, confidential informant off and on until my resignation from the Army in October 1959. A complete description of the information I supplied to the Agency during my military career would only add to what must perforce become a lengthy addendum; may it suffice to say that it did not always seem germane to intelligence affairs, but when it did it consisted mainly of an assortment of data that for so-called discretionary reasons was seldom passed on to the Agency (or for that matter, to our own higher echelons) through regular channels.

Mr. Lucey's statement, "Being married to a foreign national meant an automatic removal from intelligence work so Nagell decided to leave the Army," is misleading and incorrect in its entirety. The only military intelligence organization from which an individual is normally removed subsequent to marrying a foreign national is the CIC - primarily a security type organ - and this rule does not necessarily apply when the agent is an enlisted man or warrant officer. As a commissioned officer, I was declared ineligible for further duty with the CIC effective 14 April 1959, a full year after my marriage to a foreign national. I was not barred from assignment to other, even more sensitive, MI organizations such as Field Operations Intelligence, then the clandestine espionage department of military intelligence. As for the reasons I left the Army, they were clearly if euphemistically explained in my second letter of resignation, dated 31 August 1959, namely: "I desire to tender my resignation because I wish to further my civilian education. It is not possible for me to pursue the curriculum of which I am desirous while on active duty. Also, compassionate reasons of a personal nature exist for desiring to tender my resignation at this time."

My patronage under the CIA did not end with my discharge from the Army and ensuing employment in December 1959 as an investigator for the State of California; in fact, henceforth I was offered remuneration for my services, however nominal it sometimes was. What my new tasks comprised is of no real pertinence to this addendum or to later developments, except perhaps to mention that one of my contacts said he worked out of "Domestic Intelligence," possibly the forerunner of the present-day Domestic Operations Division, which illegally keeps tabs on a wide range of American civilian organizations and activities. I should also point out that I did not quit my position with the State of California "to work for the CIA," as implied by Mr. Lucey. I was dismissed, in June 1962, at my own option and in my opinion for doing my job. (The following month I was shot through the right chest during an altercation with a person whose identity I have never disclosed . . . not through the left chest by myself, my wife, an Alcoholic Beverage Control inspector then under investigation or by a Los Angeles police officer "because of communistic implications," as has been reported at various times by various sources).

For the next year, from approximately the middle of August 1962 until my arrest in

Texas on 30 September 1963, I was employed by the Agency in a capacity which can be accurately described as that of an agent, in every sense of the word. My assignments varied and necessitated travel to three Latin American nations and many states, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. They also necessitated my taking on cover employment for one week in New York and for about ten weeks in Los Angeles, though usually I posed as a tourist, an investigator for the Immigration & Naturalization Service or as a researcher for a private firm, the appropriate credentials being furnished to me by the CIA. To sum it up briefly, I operated in Mexico City at the onset of the Cuban Missile Crisis in an effort aimed chiefly at the Soviet government; I conducted inquiries relative to "dissident" members of several Cuban refugee groups based in the United States; I checked out an alleged connection between a Miami resident named Eladio Del Valle and New Orleans CIA informant Sergio Arcacha-Smith; I investigated an associate of the now deceased right-wing extremist David W. Ferrie of New Orleans, as I did the activities of left-wingers Vaughn L. Snipes and his wife, Priscilla, near Venice, California, and others; I conducted a surveillance on a man, said to have been an ex-CIA employee, observed talking to MRP leader Manuel Artime and former Cuban senator/racketeer Rolando Masferrer; I inquired into an allegation that Marina Oswald intended to divorce her husband and return to the U.S.S.R. (although I never stated that I met her personally, as was reported by the FBI and Secret Service); and I performed courier duties and acted as a cut-out. At the time of my arrest I was operating in an undercover role, having become involved in a domestic-inspired plot to assassinate President Kennedy and, leastwise ostensibly, other highly-placed government officials.

Mr. Lucey goes on to state that my last assignment at the time "was to penetrate the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, where he met Oswald." Such statement is also incorrect. I was never a member, bona-fide or otherwise, of the FPCC. And my conversations with FPCC functionaries like Steve Roberts, an official of the Socialist Workers Party at Los Angeles, could hardly be construed as a penetration. Furthermore, I had been introduced to Mr. Oswald long before the FPCC came into existence, albeit under an assumed name.

As to the allusion that I told "Bob" I was an intelligence man, not a killer, therefore I couldn't kill Mr. Oswald, while the reference is true its connotation is deceptive. I had killed before and I had participated in homicides under the auspices of both MI and the CIA (one instance being the part I played in the February 1958 abduction-interrogation-murder of an FOI agent, a U.S. soldier, MSGT Emmett E. Dugan, from Crafton, Pa., suspected of having defected in place to the Chinese), under the guise that an American variation of the Soviet "wet affair" was the only alternative, that it was either essential to some overall intelligence effort or in the best interests of our national security. And it was a similar-sounding argument, ultimately reduced to a threat, that was advanced to me by Robert Graham as an incentive to dispose of Mr. Oswald in September 1963. But my refusal to do so had absolutely no bearing on the reason for effecting my arrest in the manner I chose, nor did it engender in me fear of reprisal by the CIA.

Pertaining to my arrest and convictions at El Paso, Texas, which the official spokesmen and the press have so neatly labeled as being for "bank robbery," let one of the government's own spurious records, the appellate court decision that finally yawned a judgement of acquittal in my case, give its version: "The charge was then, and is now, entering a federally insured bank with intent to rob." What the record aptly ignores is the fact that two juries, incensed by the prosecution's innuendoes in and out of the courtroom (and by the ramifications of perjured testimony and a false Bureau of Prisons report made available to the jury during its deliberations at the second trial - though never formally admitted into evidence) that I was a Communist, no doubt a very red spy, twice convicted me of having "intended" to take by force and violence one hundred dollars worth of Travelers Cheques from a bank teller.

I shall not herein attempt to list even generally the injustices to which I was subjected by a corrupt judicial system, nor shall I bother to enumerate the cruelties

inflicted upon me while confined in sundry Texas jails and at Leavenworth Penitentiary. Most of them are adequately detailed in my 1967 Memorandum in Support of Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, sworn to and subscribed before William R. Martin (a former member of the CIA's Dirty Tricks Division, who by his own admission is still in "the reserves"). But I shall opine that if President Kennedy had not met his demise when and where he did, I would not have been brought to trial on charges of committing a felony.

While my return to the fold of the CIA in May 1968 may have been the only "practical thing" for me to do, it definitely was not predicated on my financial situation, as a few old bank account passbooks will substantiate (I am not quite the mercenary that Mr. Lucey has portrayed). Nor was it because of any peculiar allegiance to those who had tossed me on the scrap heap for the sake of expediency 4½ years earlier, love of country, masochistic tendencies or wont of further intrigue. And while it remains axiomatic in my mind that the sole requisite for one's use by the Agency is his qualification to fit into whatever may happen to be the scheme of things, even this did not apply in my circumstance, not really. I agreed to go back out into the cold, so to speak, strictly for personal reasons and I think the explanation is wisely left at that for now.

My mission inside East Germany - if indeed it was a mission - was neither as well-defined nor as elementary as Mr. Lucey has perceived. I am sure the CIA knows all it needs to know about American defectors in Berlin and the modus operandi of the MfS. In fact, the mission was not directed against East Germany, per se. Preparations bore the trademarks of an authentic, even typical, Agency project targeted in the main to another nation. That I was unable to comprehend the German language, that I had been a recent, unwilling guest of the U.S. Attorney General, branded a Communist in the public records, etc., merely served to strengthen an already plausible cover built up by chance rather than by design. Paradoxically, the chinks in the armor were that the cover was not wholly untrue, the MfS (unlike the FBI) not in the least irresponsible to the laws and policies of its government. In the past I had engaged in certain covert intelligence activities hostile to other socialist states, to which - as an integral part of my cover - I freely confessed. Oddly enough, however, my mentors from Langely had neglected to tell me during the briefings that these previous activities constituted a violation of the criminal statutes of the GDR, warranting a maximum penalty of death upon conviction. By inadvertence or by plan I found myself in a not altogether unfamiliar predicament. If I had confessed to my real mission, assuming that it was genuine, without doubt I would have been spared execution, probably even escaped long-term imprisonment. Instead, I selected what I considered to be a better alternative . . . and gained my freedom. As for my treatment by the MfS, from beginning to end it was far more gentle than that experienced beneath the cudgel of the U.S. Department of Justice.

With regard to my marital status and my children, the foremost area that Mr. Lucey appears to have exploited, I have never claimed that "Uncle Sam hides my family" or stated that FBI and CIA agents deliberately isolated me from my wife and children; nor have I claimed that the Agency used the promise of reuniting me with my family as part of the incentive for accepting the assignment in the GDR. My accusations in this respect centered around my children and they were leveled at the State Department as the result of a promise made to me shortly after my release from the GDR. Since returning to the United States last spring a reliable source has informed me that my wife was granted a final decree of divorce at some period during my imprisonment in the USA and although I have never been served with a copy of the decree or other notification of divorce (or notice of a divorce hearing) I see no cause to dispute the advisement.

Lastly, concerning the aspersions cast on my sanity, at this writing permit me to say only that I have never in my life been certified psychotic by any U.S. medical authority or adjudicated mentally-incompetent in a court of law, notwithstanding the conflicting legal and medical opinions as to my mental condition on the day of my arrest in Texas, over six years ago.

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