

Dear Dennis,

2/15/94

Sorry I cannot travel. I enjoys ^Speaking to students.

On the copies of Whitewash, the \$27.00 price is retail and includes insured mail. The book itself is \$25.00. We have been selling them to stores for \$20.00, so that is what id will charge you when she can make the order up. If she does not include the postage please add that.

I'm glad to get those stories on the "new" information in these "new" releases.

The Boston Globe's "new" one quoting McCloy on "very limited mentalities in the CIA and the FBI" is so new it was on the back cover of my 1974 ~~Photographic~~ "Whi Whitewash IV! It was disclosed to me, that transcript, under FOIA, in 1974 and in 1993 it is a sensational "new" release!

That "new" Derjiabin memo story in the Union-Leader, from AP, also was disclosed about that time. He is a political nut. His "intelligence" consisted of assuming that the USSR killed JFK.

Our best,

800,000 Pages of John F. Kennedy Assassination Documents Released

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five days after John F. Kennedy's assassination, a Soviet defector working for the CIA speculated that the murder was instigated by the KGB to relieve internal pressures on Nikita Khrushchev, then the leader of the Soviet Union.

"Our President's death... effectively diverts the Soviets' attention from their internal problems. It directly affects Khrushchev's longevity," wrote the CIA official, Peter Deryabin, in an eight-page, single-spaced typewritten memo to his superiors dated Nov. 27, 1963.

Deryabin was a Soviet KGB agent who defected to the West in 1964. He served as a consultant to the U.S. government, including the CIA, and wrote several books. He died about a year ago. Deryabin's memo was stamped

"secret" and it offered no factual basis for his speculation that the Soviets were behind Lee Harvey Oswald's shooting of the President in Dallas.

Deryabin's memo came to light yesterday when the National Archives made public more than 800,000 pages of government documents concerning the assassination, as required under a 1992 law.

Included in the disclosure were files from the CIA and FBI; State Department; Defense Department; the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination; the follow-up 1975 Rockefeller Commission, Presidential Libraries and congressional committees.

Deryabin's memo listed reasons why Kennedy's assassination would benefit the Soviets and advanced the idea that the

KGB, the Soviet Union's secret intelligence agency, may have instigated such an act while Oswald lived in the Soviet Union.

A former Marine, Oswald defected to Moscow for a period and then returned to the United States.

"The very real possibility also exists that Oswald was sent here on another mission by the KGB and subsequently accomplished the deed on his own initiative," Deryabin commented.

"However, such a possibility does not make the KGB less culpable as the seeds for Oswald's act must have been planted while he was trained in the USSR for his other mission.

"We might first examine the question uppermost in the minds of most Americans, 'what did the USSR have to gain by killing the President?'"

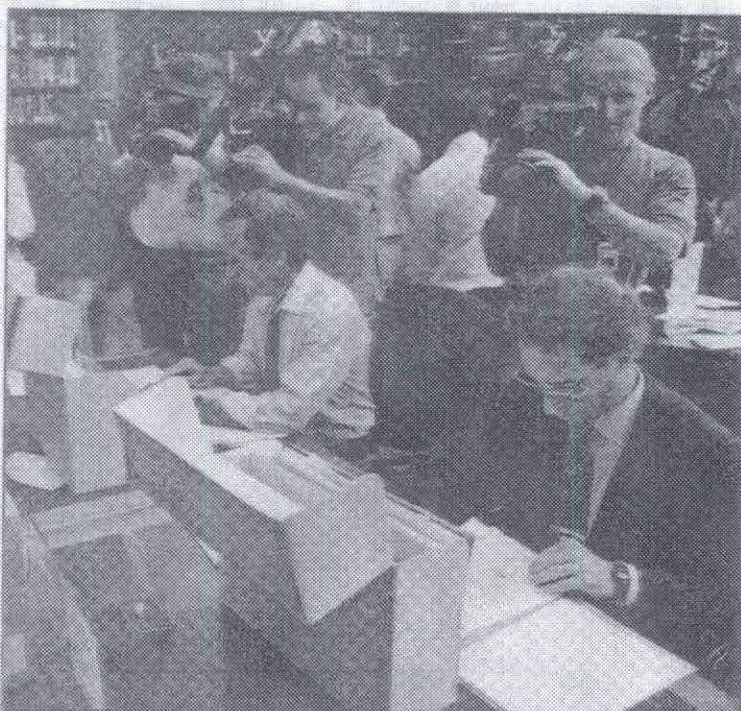
"I believe we can make a good case as to the precise gains accruing to the USSR and more specifically accruing to Khrushchev."

Deryabin's memo was signed just "Peter" over his typewritten signature. And it offered no evidence to indicate that his theory that the Soviets instigated the murder was anything but speculation.

It was written at a time when investigators from many branches of the government were speculating as to Oswald's possible motive for shooting Kennedy.

In the memo, Deryabin listed nine reasons why Kennedy's killing would benefit the Russians.

His first was that Western pressure, led by America, "would automatically ease up," adding, "witness President Johnson's immediate conciliatory telegram to Khrushchev after the murder."



AP Photo
JFK PAPERS — As cameramen take aim and members of the media look on, researchers yesterday look through notes pertaining to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy at the National Archives in Washington.

In JFK files, a nervous era

WASHINGTON - The 800,000 pages of intelligence archive files released this week will tell future historians little about the connection between John F. Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, but they open a window into the world they shared - and the one that was created when, for a few fateful seconds three decades ago, their lives collided.

Just a day after the secrecy was lifted from the Oswald files, the reading rooms on the second floor of the National Archives were returning to their dusty and sleepy obscurity. The reporters and the camera

National Perspective

DAVID SHRIBMAN

technicians were mostly gone, along with the hope that the documents in the newly unsealed boxes might help turn the key to the biggest mystery of the postwar world.

But what remained was one of the biggest monuments to an era ever created - page after page of paranoia, Cold War fear, superpower intrigue, agency secrets, inexplicable shards of evidence, enigmatic jottings between typewritten lines.

It was a world where it would have mattered if Oswald had met Fidel Castro's agents in Mexico. It was a world where law-enforcement personnel obtained the obstreperous records of Oswald's wife, Marina. It was a world where sober-minded bureaucrats took seriously the report of a man who had overheard a drunken Communist Party leader in Tulsa, Okla., say that he had learned that Nikita Khrushchev himself once said of Kennedy: "I want him killed."

It was a time when investigators tracked down whether the Soviets
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were running a terrorist training camp in Minsk. It was a time when serious-minded operatives wrote memos on research into the use of LSD and ESP for controlling behavior patterns within the Soviet Union.

It was a time when a letter to Marina Oswald containing a passing reference to a June snowfall in Minsk could raise the question whether the phrase was an espionage codeword rather than a meteorological commentary - and could prompt CIA operatives to remind themselves to check whether it had snowed in Minsk in June 1962, appending five question marks to the query.

It was, in short, a peculiar wrinkle in time in an ever-more peculiar world.

The passing of the Cold War will make the period seem even more inexplicable. Brochures from the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, postcards with an emblem celebrating the People's Choir, paper with the watermark "Trade Union School of Communism," an entry card to Scientific

Study Hall No. 1 issued to Lee Harvey Oswald by the Lenin State Library - all these are period pieces, instantly understandable to anyone alive between Korea and Kent State, but likely to be inscrutable to anyone else.

These two countries, Kennedy's America and its dread superpower rival, the Soviet Union, were caught up in what the young president himself once called a twilight struggle, one that warped each other's perspective, judgment and economy. It produced spectacles like a letter, included in the archives, from John A. McCone, the director of central intelligence, avowing that the man accused of killing the president "was not an agent, employee, or informant" of an agency of that president's own government.

And it spawned a virus of conspiracy theories that reflected and, finally, amplified, the fears of the age.

In the files - a time capsule from a troubled time - is speculation that Castro was connected with the assassination, speculation that Oswald was actually John Otto Bridge or

maybe Jerry Pellegrino, speculation (from Marguerita Oswald, Lee's mother) that the assassination was actually a conspiracy between two giant Texas retailers, Neiman-Marcus of Dallas and Sakowitz of Houston. Mrs. Oswald was convinced that the merchandisers communicated through ads in the Dallas and Houston papers, arguing that a Neiman-Marcus ad featuring a woman with a pearl necklace and headed, ominously, "The Connecting Link," was confirmation of her theory.

The atmosphere was such that American authorities could examine reports such as one from a horse trainer in Rosecroft, Md., who told the FBI that she learned from a groom of a conspiracy "to take over the world," which led to Kennedy's death. The groom purportedly told the woman on Nov. 22, 1963, that he knew Kennedy would be killed and that the killer would not live to come to trial.

And it prompted investigators to look at a letter Marina Oswald received that included a mysterious passage saying that the "main idea of the play, 'The Man with the Rifle,'

is explained in the words: 'Now we should not be afraid of the man with the rifle.'"

Not that the Americans were the only ones with the theories. Khrushchev told columnist Drew Pearson and his wife that he was convinced that the American right wing assassinated Kennedy. According to a memo: "Chairman and Mrs. Khrushchev could not believe that the affair had happened as it apparently did, and Mr. Pearson made no headway whatever in trying to change their belief that something was not on the level."

What does emerge from the Oswald archives is the suggestion that authorities investigated every conceivable tip, no matter how removed, how remote or how ridiculous. That includes a phone call the wife of a Dallas justice of the peace received from "an unidentified colored man" who had overheard another woman talking to her son-in-law on the phone that suggested, somehow, that the son-in-law had conspired with Oswald.

These investigations found that

Oswald's rent at 2703 Mercedes St. was \$59.50 a month, not including \$12 for utilities, that Oswald cashed a \$6 check at an A&P store at 107 East Jefferson St. on Oct. 8, 1963 (but bought no groceries that day), and that Marina Oswald chose to have no anesthesia while giving birth to "one viable living white female" 12 days later. Less than three weeks after the Kennedy assassination, Mrs. Oswald entered Parkland Medical Center for a postpartum examination, which was normal. Secret Service agents accompanied the baby during the examination.

But mysteries remain. Why, for example, are there at least two pieces of paper in the files with simply the number "37" handwritten on them? Is there a secret embedded in the sewing patterns, apparently taken from Mrs. Oswald, that might offer clues to the assassination? What explains the frequency of references to soup (two to chicken, one to kidney soup with salted cucumbers) in the Oswalds' private correspondence? And one more: Did it really snow in Minsk in June 1962?

Data show concern for FBI,

By John W. Mashek
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON - Previously classified documents on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy almost 30 years ago reflect great governmental concern about the reputation of the Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI. The pages also display an earlier zeal for declaring documents secret.

Page after page of classified testimony before the Warren Commission reveals that panel members were worried that the CIA or FBI might be tainted even by rumors that Lee Harvey Oswald had been linked to either agency. In its final report, the commission ruled that Oswald, a wanderer who once renounced his US citizenship for the Soviet Union, had acted alone.

At one point in the Warren Commission's deliberations, John J. McCloy says of the two agencies, "I can't say that I've run into a fellow comparable to Oswald, but I have run into some very limited mentalities in the CIA and FBI." The formerly classified document reports laughter from among the other commission members.

There are also letters and memos from then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and former CIA

officials debunking any notion that Oswald was either a paid informer or overseas operative. The Warren Commission agreed.

Robert Gates, a director of the CIA in the Bush administration, was puzzled by the long delay in releasing the documents. He cited it yesterday as one reason that conspiracy zealots are still at work on the slaying of Kennedy.

"It made no sense to classify as secret such things as newspaper clippings" said Gates, adding that he was prepared to release the CIA-related documents himself last year if Congress had not finally acted to do so.

Public opinion surveys show that large numbers of Americans resist the single-assassin theory and doubt the findings of the Warren Commission, a distinguished panel headed by then-Chief Justice Earl Warren.

"It's much like the Lincoln assassination," said Gates. "When you have a president so beloved, so admired as Kennedy, it is too great a burden to accept that a single individual could commit such a monstrous act. You don't hear many conspiracies about the McKinley assassination, do you?"

The files from the CIA show the agency carefully tracked every rumor that a visit to Mexico by Oswald a month before the slaying had some

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CIA image

conspiratorial tie to Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Also among the documents was a secondhand report made 14 years after the assassination from a Russian emigre who told an FBI agent that another Russian, Pavel Golachev, had told him of a boast by Oswald that he would get rich because "I will kill the president." Golachev told the friend that he thought Oswald was joking but was angry when he said it.

There also was an eerie reminder in the files of Oswald's attempt to contact then-Gov. John B. Connally of Texas, who was riding in the presidential limousine with Kennedy and seriously wounded in Dallas. Oswald wanted to discuss his dishonorable discharge from the Marines.

Oswald wrote Connally in 1962 to protest "my belated dishonorable discharge" because he thought Connally, a fellow Texan from Fort Worth, was still secretary of the Navy.

Connally, who was campaigning at the time for governor, wrote Oswald on campaign stationery that he was no longer in Washington but would forward the letter to the present secretary of the Navy. Connally died earlier this year.

One lesser-known theory was that Oswald intended to shoot Connally because he thought his letter of protest had been ignored.



PRESIDENT KENNEDY
"Like the Lincoln assassination"