

H. L. Hunt and feds linked to JFK 'plot'

By LARRY KLEINMAN and DAVID ROSENTHAL

Texas oil baron H. L. Hunt was one of many persons involved in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy, a Dutch journalist today quoted an alleged member of the conspiracy as saying before the latter killed himself.

The journalist said the dead man had also linked other Dallas oilmen, a group of Cubans, Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and CIA and FBI officials to the assassination plot.

The alleged conspirator, George de Mohrenschildt, a 65-year-old college professor, committed suicide Tuesday in Palm Beach, Fla., before the House assassinations committee could question him.

A WITNESS

Journalist Willem Oltmans testified for more than three hours today at a closed session of the House panel.

He later told reporters that he had given the subcommittee the name and photograph of a Cuban, now living in Florida, he believes was involved in the assassination. He did not say what evidence he had for making the assertion, but said the man had been involved in the abortive 1962 Bay of Pigs invasion.

He said he had also testified that Loran Hall, a Cuban exile, had told him in a taped interview that he had been offered \$50,000 in the office of Dallas oilman Lester Logue to assassinate President Kennedy.

DENIED BY LOGUE

Oltmans said several witnesses were present when the offer was made. Logue immediately described the story as totally untrue.

Oltmans, in earlier statements made on ABC-TV's Good Morning, America show, said that Mohrenschildt had identified himself as the middleman in the conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

Oltmans stressed that he was quoting de Mohrenschildt and not necessarily giving his own opinions. But Oltmans said he believed the professor's version of the assassination.

Oltmans said that "nobody knows" who actually fired the shots that killed Kennedy, and labeled the murder "definitely" the result of a conspiracy.

De Mohrenschildt "directly" linked Hunt to the plot, Oltmans said. The multimillionaire oilman died in 1974.

Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt "indicated very strongly that his ties upwards were toward H. L. Hunt directly . . . and downwards they were going to Lee Harvey Oswald."

He said that de Mohrenschildt "was petrified he would be killed" but had



Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans discussing JFK's assassination on TV today.

Associated Press Wirephoto

about the assassination.

The manuscript, he said, is in the possession of de Mohrenschildt's lawyer in Dallas. He said the manuscript pinpoints CIA and FBI officials who "are connected with the Kennedy assassination."

Ruby, who died of cancer, was "very much also" a part of the conspiracy, Oltmans quoted de Mohrenschildt as having revealed.

The journalist was asked

if the name of J. Edgar Hoover, the late FBI director, was among those in the manuscript. "I don't know," he answered, "but I do know some other names."

It has been established that de Mohrenschildt was in Haiti the day Kennedy was killed. Oltmans said that as soon as de Mohrenschildt heard of the killing—which, according to Oltmans was before Oswald's arrest—he immediately told people "Ken-

nedy must have been killed by Lee Harvey Oswald."

Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt had told the Warren Commission he was "absolutely sure" that Oswald was responsible but, according to Oltmans, de Mohrenschildt told him the commission "never asked me why I was so sure."

The questioning on the TV program did not bring out the apparent contradiction of Oltmans at first saying that, based on his information, no one knew who killed Kennedy, while later in the interview he said de Mohrenschildt had said he was sure it was Oswald.

But Oltmans was firm on de Mohrenschildt's statements about Hunt, saying that he "definitely identified Mr. H. L. Hunt as being his important contact in the oil community" with regard to the conspiracy.

Oltmans said he had "no idea" why the oil community would have wanted Kennedy killed.

He said that Oswald, according to de Mohrenschildt, "was absolutely and totally disgusted with the American way of life" and that part of his motivation was "to bump off, to kill, the symbol of that society, being John F. Kennedy."

Earlier, in interviews with NBC Radio and the Associated Press, Oltmans said the Cubans were enlisted by "the Dallas conspiracy" because the Cubans "had a blood debt to settle—they thought President Kennedy had betrayed them at the Bay of Pigs."



Associated Press Photo

H. L. HUNT Called plotter.

On Wednesday, Rep. Richard Preyer (D-N.C.), a member of the panel, called de Mohrenschildt "the crucial witness" in the committee's work.

Oltmans, who said he hopes to sell his story to a magazine, said he gave the House committee a 50-minute filmed interview with de Mohrenschildt and a 45-minute taped interview with de Mohrenschildt and his former wife, both of whom were friends of Oswald.

Committee investigators have been looking into the possibility that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro ordered Kennedy's death in retaliation for CIA plots aimed at him.

Report prof's ms. in Dallas

In his interview on ABC-TV's Good Morning, America show today Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans said that George de Mohrenschildt, in a manuscript, had named names in the alleged Kennedy assassination plot.

Oltmans said the manuscript was in the possession of a Dallas lawyer he identified only as "Mr. Russell."

The Post has identified the lawyer as Patrick S. Russell Jr.

An assistant to Russell

confirmed that "this is the right lawyer" and added: "There are some manuscripts [from de Mohrenschildt] here."

The aide said Russell was not available and declined to discuss the manuscripts.

A BRIEFCASE

Meanwhile, in Palm Beach, Fla., where de Mohrenschildt killed himself Tuesday, the Sheriff's office said a briefcase containing de Mohrenschildt's papers had been recovered.

But officials there said no one from the House assassinations committee had yet made contact with them.

WON'T DISCUSS THEM

Sheriff's Lt. Richard Sheets said, "I'm more than a little surprised that the committee hasn't contacted me about what we found in de Mohrenschildt's room. I haven't heard one word from the committee."

Sheets would not discuss the papers, saying that was

"something I simply am not going to get into."

"I'm not in a position to evaluate their importance. That's for the committee in Washington to do."

"For all I know," Sheets added, "they could be the key to what everybody has been looking for since the assassination."

Subsequently a committee spokesman said the papers would be picked up before the end of the day.

Assertions About Oswald Confronting House Group

By MARTIN WALDRON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 3—Last Tuesday, George de Mohrenschildt, a 65-year-old self-styled promoter who enjoyed the company of rich men and beautiful women and had a sometimes dangerous habit of sketching and photographing defense installations in various countries, was killed by a shotgun blast in Palm Beach, Fla.

His death, at the home of relatives of his daughter, Alexandra, was said by the police to be a suicide. Earlier, Mr. de Mohrenschildt had learned that a Congressional committee was prepared to investigate his connection with Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy. The following subsequent developments heightened public interest last week:

1. A Dutch reporter, Willem Oltmans, appearing before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, quoted Mr. de Mohrenschildt as having said that he had arranged for Mr. Oswald to kill the President and that the assassination had been instigated by Texas oilmen, including the late billionaire H.L. Hunt of Dallas.

2. A retired Texas newspaper editor, Penn Jones Jr., who has been fascinated by the Kennedy assassination for 13 years, released a copy of a letter to a "Mr. Hunt" asking for "information concerning my position." The letter, dated two weeks before President Kennedy was slain, was said to be from Mr. Oswald.

3. The House committee must establish whether there is any relevance or truth to these allegations if it is, once and for all, to explain President Kennedy's assassination and the 1968 murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

Hundreds of people claim a knowledge of the two murders. There have been allegations that President Kennedy and Dr. King were killed by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, jealous husbands, Cubans, Vietnamese, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, gangsters, Texas oilmen and munitions makers.

Official investigations found that Mr. Oswald, acting alone, shot President Kennedy for complex personal reasons, and that James Earl Ray, an escaped convict also acting alone and also for personal reasons, killed Dr. King.

Since its establishment last September, the special House committee has spent about \$350,000. Staff members told the committee last month that there were "promising" new leads, but neither the de Mohrenschildt accusations nor the Hunt letter is new. None of the other "leads" described at a secret committee meeting appear to be new, either.

An accidentally released transcript of a secret meeting of the House Assassination Committee on March 17 disclosed that much of the information the committee "uncovered" in its six months of operation has been available for years.

The "Hunt letter" first became known in the summer of 1975. A number of assassination students, most of them private citizens, got copies of it in the mail from Mexico City.

The letter has excited some interest in the last few days because Justice Department sources said the F.B.I. had confirmed that the letter was in Mr. Oswald's handwriting.

The 39-word letter was dated Nov. 8, 1963, two weeks before Mr. Kennedy was slain. Mr. Oswald was living in Dallas and working at the Texas Schoolbook Depository.

The letter said: "Dear Mr. Hunt, I would like information concerning my position. I am asking only for information. I am suggesting that we discuss the matter more fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else. Thank you. Lee Harvey Oswald."

Mr. Jones said he received a photocopy of the handwritten letter in August or September, 1975, at his home in Midlothian, Texas, where he once ran a prize-winning weekly newspaper, The Midlothian Mirror.

Accompanying the photocopy was a

tion, according to Mr. Oltmans, but that he did not want to talk in the United States "because for a number of reasons I don't feel safe here any longer." Mr. Oltmans accompanied Mr. de Mohrenschildt to Amsterdam, but the professor later disappeared during a trip to Brussels.

Mr. Oltmans has written a book on former President Sukarno of Indonesia, who was a personal friend, and has published articles on Indonesian affairs. He has also written investigative articles on the Dutch royal family and Soviet affairs.

*NY Times,
April 4, 1977*

Reporter Who Testified Spent a Decade Studying Kennedy's Assassination

AMSTERDAM, the Netherlands, April 3 (AP)—Willem Oltmans, the Dutch reporter who testified before the House Assassinations Committee last week, says he has spent more than a decade investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Oltmans, an Amsterdam freelance writer, said in an article published recently in the Dutch magazine Nieuwe Revu that he became interested in the case after a chance meeting in the United States with the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused killer of Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Oltmans, in his 40's, is described by Dutch reporters who know him well as a man who explores points that sometimes are missed in the rush of news. They say he has traveled widely and has some good contacts.

A prominent figure in Dutch news circles for more than 15 years, Mr. Oltmans has worked on a freelance basis for television networks and for major newspapers and magazines in the Netherlands.

The Dutch reporter is known to have been a close friend of George de Mohrenschildt, a Dallas professor and an acquaintance of Mr. Oswald who apparently killed himself in Palm Beach, Fla., on Wednesday after learning that he would be called before the House committee.

In the Nieuwe Revu article, Mr. Oltmans wrote that he interviewed Mr. de Mohrenschildt in Dallas in February. The Russian-born professor said that he wanted to tell what he knew about the assassina-

Nov. 8, 1963

Dear Mr. Hunt,

I would like information concerning my position.

I am asking only for information.

I am suggesting that we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else.

Thank you,
Lee Harvey Oswald

Copy of letter reportedly written by Lee Harvey Oswald to a "Mr. Hunt" two weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy.

typewritten note in Spanish, saying that the sender, who signed himself "P.S.," had sent a photocopy of the letter to the F.B.I. in late 1974 and had not heard from the bureau.

"Senor P.S.," as he became known, also wrote that he feared something might happen to him and that he was going into hiding for a time. On the back of the envelope containing the photocopy and the note was a return address: "Insurgentes Sud, No. 309, Mexico, Df, Mexico."

Number 309 South Insurgentes in Mexico City is a four-story white stone apartment house containing a number of lower-middle-class flats. On the first floor of the building are two low-quality clothing stores and a small shop selling national lottery tickets.

Mr. Jones said that he gave his copy of the "Hunt letter" to The Dallas Morning News last month. The newspaper reported that it had had the letter analyzed by three independent handwriting experts who, like the F.B.I., concluded that it had been written by Mr. Oswald. The experts said they had compared the letter with others known to have been written by Mr. Oswald.

There was no indication of how "Senor P.S." had come into possession of the Oswald letter.

Harold Weisberg of Frederick, Md., a former Senate investigator who has devoted the past 12 years to researching the Kennedy and King murders, said he got a copy of the letter in the mail in August 1975, as did Howard Roffman of Gainesville, Fla., a law school graduate.

Letters Unanswered
Mr. Weisberg and Mr. Jones said they had written to the address on the envelope and had not received answers, though their letters were not returned as undelivered.

The family of Mr. Hunt, who died Nov. 29, 1974, has protested published assertions that the letter was written to him.

In 1964, the F.B.I. checked the Hunt family in connection with the Kennedy assassination, but no member of the family testified before the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, which investigated the assassination. Several of Mr. Hunt's sons have called "ridiculous" the notion that any of the Hunts had been connected with the murder.

An associate of the Hunt family said yesterday that H.L. Hunt and members of his family "are not the only Hunts around."

"Wasn't there a Hunt connected with the C.I.A. back in 1963?" he asked.

There has been no evidence linking E. Howard Hunt, a C.I.A. agent who was

involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, to Mr. Oswald. Mr. Hunt has just been released from Federal prison; he had been convicted of complicity in the burglary of the Democratic National Committee Headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington in 1972.

The Oswald "Hunt letter" aroused still more interest after Mr. de Mohrenschildt's death, when Mr. Oltmans came forward to say publicly that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had linked H.L. Hunt to Mr. Oswald.

Relatives and associates of Mr. de Mohrenschildt said he was hospitalized recently for treatment of mental disorders, including paranoia, and tried to kill himself several times previously.

The House Assassinations Committee had heard part of the de Mohrenschildt story from Mr. Oltmans last month and had been searching for Mr. de Mohrenschildt to ask him to testify.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt died after he learned last week that a committee investigator had gone to Palm Beach to talk to him.

The authorities in the Florida city said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had left a number of personal papers but that none of them seemed to be connected in any way to Mr. Oswald or the Kennedy administration.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt's daughter, Alexandra Taylor, whom he was visiting at the time of his death, said her father was "mentally and physically afraid" of Mr. Oltmans.

The Texan had gone to Amsterdam with Mr. Oltmans earlier last month. He tried to sell a book manuscript on the Kennedy slaying and appeared on television with Mr. Oltmans there.

"He felt he had been drugged in Amsterdam," Mrs. Taylor said. She also reported that her father had been mentally ill recently.

Treated for Paranoia

Other associates of Mr. de Mohrenschildt reported that he was treated for paranoia for some weeks in Dallas earlier this year. He was a teacher at a small school in Dallas, Bishop College.

During his adventurous life, Mr. de Mohrenschildt had many careers: perfume salesman, oil geologist, polo player, Polish cavalry officer, movie producer and, many believed, spy.

At one point in World War II, Mr. de Mohrenschildt was suspected of spying by both the United States and Mexico and was detained and questioned in both countries.

The United States incident came after he and Lilia Pardo Larin, then his mistress, were observed photographing and sketching the beachfront near Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt told the Warren Commission in April 1964 that he had not realized the area he was sketching had defense fortifications. He said he resented having been considered a German spy.

Later in World War II he was expelled from Mexico, but he said that was because a high-ranking Mexican official wanted to steal Mrs. Larin from him, that it had no connection with his being suspected of espionage.

In 1957, soldiers fired on Mr. de Mohrenschildt and his fourth wife, Jeanne, as they sketched and took photographs of a Yugoslav beach while sitting in a boat. "The little island we thought was completely empty, not a soul on it, they had fortifications on that island," Mrs. de Mohrenschildt told the Warren Commission.

The de Mohrenschildts testified before the commission after they had been investigated for weeks by dozens of F.B.I. agents.

The commission was interested in the de Mohrenschildts because they were friendly with the Oswalds. The de Mohrenschildts said they had met the Oswalds through the Russian-speaking community in Dallas and had felt sorry for Marina Oswald, whom Mr. Oswald met and married while in Russia in the early 1960's.

In April 1963, the de Mohrenschildts went to Haiti, where he tried to promote a deal with the government of the late President Francois Duvalier to search for oil and minerals. They were still living in Haiti when Mr. Kennedy was killed.

The Warren Commission and the F.B.I. concluded that there was no evidence to suggest that the de Mohrenschildts had had any connection with the assassination.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt told the commission that he was not sure Mr. Oswald had killed President Kennedy and that Mr. Oswald had not seemed inclined to political violence. Mr. de Mohrenschildt told the commission:

"In my opinion, if Lee Oswald did kill the President, this might be the reason for it: That he was insanely jealous of an extraordinarily successful man, who was young, attractive, had a beautiful wife, had all the money in the world and was a world figure. And poor Oswald was just the opposite. He had nothing. He had a bitchy wife, had no money, was a miserable failure in everything he did."