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Key Assassination Witness Named

Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans has identified an American Army colonel as the "mystery witness" behind his recent charges that former President Gerald Ford is aware of secret intelligence reports which detail a conspiracy involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Oltmans has named retired Colonel Donald Donaldson as his source. The journalist claims that Kennedy was warned about plots against his life in 1961 -- two years before his murder in Dallas.

Kennedy, according to Oltmans, received word of the threats against his life from Soviet intelligence and asked his friend, Col. Donaldson, to investigate the reports. Donaldson, who had also been a friend of President Harry S. Truman, allegedly "undertook the assignment and 'knows who killed Kennedy,'" says Oltmans. The only problem is: General Donaldson won't talk.

"I met with him recently in the Holiday Inn at Heathrow Airport," Oltmans claimed earlier this month on the ABC-TV show "Good Morning America." Oltmans stated he tried to persuade Donaldson to testify directly but Donaldson "refused and threatened to shoot" the journalist if he pursued the case.

If Donaldson does in fact know "the name of the man who ordered JFK's death," as Oltman alleges, his unwillingness to testify may be understandable. Oltmans' previous witness, George de Mohrenschildt (a former intelligence officer alleged to have been Lee Harvey Oswald's "control agent") committed suicide shortly before he was to testify before a congressional panel.

-- Gar Smith