

Oswald 'kill' book eluded agents' eyes

ROCKWALL, Tex. (UPI)—The only possession of Lee Harvey Oswald not confiscated by government agents after the John F. Kennedy assassination was an English-Russian dictionary in which numerous words were marked or copied out, including a phrase meaning "to hit or kill at definite distance."

In a coincidence, Oswald wrote in the book, in Russian: "Moscow, Nov. 22, 1959, Lee Harvey Oswald"—four years to the day before Kennedy was slain in Dallas. Some 40 words and phrases were emphasized.

"It hasn't been checked for microdots (microscopic photographs) or anything," said John Cullins, former sheriff's chief deputy. He was given the book by Oswald's widow, Marina Oswald Porter.

Cullins said it appeared Oswald was writing a resume and trying to convert some key English terms into Russian.

MRS. PORTER confirmed the dictionary belonged to her former husband and that the handwriting and markings in the book were his. She said she could not understand why agents from the Secret Service, FBI, and other government agencies did not notice it when they descended upon the couple's residence after the assassination.

"That's the book Lee used in Moscow all the time," Mrs. Porter said. She said she did not look in the book or notice the underlined, emphasized, or hand-written practice words until Cullins saw them and asked her to translate.

"I was so angry with Lee at the time (after the assassination) that I didn't want any reminders" of him, Mrs. Porter said. She gave the book to Cullins, one of her family's closest friends, in 1977.

AMONG THE emphasized words—sometimes marked with large, thick arrows—were "radar," "range," "eject," and "razor." "Radar locator" is written in Oswald's handwriting and a chilling definition of "range" is underlined before being rewritten in Russian.

The Russian phrase, Mrs. Porter said, means: "To beat, hit, or kill at definite distance." Another translation means 'to

kill or slaughter, as an animal."

Also heavily marked is the word "ounce." "Politic" is emphasized, as are "European," "nonstop," "protest," and "radical."

The emphasis of "razor" could relate to Oswald's reported wrist-slashing suicide attempt while in Moscow, an incident various assassination researchers believe may have enabled Soviet authorities to train, interrogate, or debrief Oswald while he was "hospitalized."

THE BOOK HAS never been inspected by government agents, Cullins said, although an investigator for the House Select Committee on Assassinations threatened to subpoena it in 1978 but did not follow through.

Oswald studied the book in 1959—also the date of its copyright—in a Moscow hotel after his defection from the Marine Corps. In his diary at the time, he wrote, "I have bought myself two self-teaching Russian lan. books. I force myself to study 8 hours a day. I sit in my room and read and memorize words..." The period was Nov. 17 to Dec. 30, 1959.

Cullins said, "I think it was a resume of information on his part that he was preparing to give to someone who spoke or read Russian. I see no other reason he would look words up in English and practice them in Russian."

OSWALD DEFECTED to Moscow in October, 1959, and on May 1, 1960, American test pilot Gary Powers was shot down over Russia. Oswald may have had information about Powers' secret U-2 aircraft and served at an American air base and radar tracking station in Japan from which U-2 aircraft made secret flights, according to historians and authors. Powers' flight took off from Pakistan.

"Lee had a great interest in Powers," Mrs. Porter said. "He even wrote a letter about him."

Oswald is reported to have bragged, while at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, that he knew radar secrets he would turn over to the Russians. Soviet authorities have consistently claimed, however, that they learned nothing significant from Oswald.

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