

Oswald imposter 'remote'

By EARL GOLZ

The forensic anthropologist whose study of photographic evidence led the House Select Committee on Assassinations to discount any theory of a Lee Harvey Oswald imposter says he could "not totally exclude a remote possibility" of an Oswald look-alike.

Dr. Clyde C. Snow, in a telephone interview from New Orleans, said it is "not my position" to recommend an exhumation but suggested a panel of identification experts be named if the body in Oswald's grave is disinterred. He said he would volunteer to serve on such a panel.

Snow, a friend of Dallas County chief medical examiner Dr. Charles Petty, said he did not know Petty had decided against exhumation after first favoring it.

Petty's chief reason for changing his mind was a study of the assassination committee's conclusion that Oswald did not have a double.

THE CONCLUSION was based primarily on Snow's comparison of Oswald photographs taken before he defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, during his stay there and after his return to the United States in 1962.

Petty last October said he favored exhumation

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because research by English author and lawyer Michael Eddowes "sheds some doubt as to the identity of the individual" buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Oswald was supposedly buried there one day after he was shot to death by Dallas nightclub operator Jack Ruby in the basement of Dallas City Hall.

Oswald had been accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy two days earlier.

EDDOWES BELIEVES the man who came to this country from the Soviet Union was not Oswald but a Soviet spy. He cites the failure of autopsy records in 1963 to show a mastoidectomy scar behind the body's left ear and a measurement of the body 2 inches shorter than the Oswald who defected.

Snow said an exhumation "would be of interest and it could probably from the records we have now... put it (the question of an imposter) to bed one way or another."

Snow told the assassinations committee after studying the Oswald photographs, "With the best evidence available we could see no striking differences that we could measure.

"Now this does not mean, however, that there isn't a remote chance that there could be a double involved," Snow said. "We couldn't say that. We can just say from what we saw that we saw no evidence."

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