

April 26, 1988

April 28, 1988

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
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Dear Harold:

I doubt that you recall who I am, it has been some time since I had spoken to you. I had the pleasure of visiting with you and Mrs. Weisberg on two separate occasions back five or six years ago, when I first began to study the Kennedy assassination. At the time I lived in Memphis Tennessee, I have since relocated to Nashville TN.

I would like to share with you a series of discussions I have had pertaining to the military records of Lee Oswald. I have already contacted Paul Hoch regarding these conversations and I thought you might be interested as well because it deals with the government's white wash of the investigation pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy.

On Nov. 22, 1987, I gave a short presentation on the JFK Assassination. One of my employees made a point to thank me, and related that at the time of the Assisination he was stationed in Washington D.C. He was a Marine assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence, and was familar with Lee Oswald's case, having Oswald's file come across his desk prior to the Assassination.

I had lunch with him and he spoke carefully of his experiences within the Intelligence division. He spoke first hand of the intelligence file that was kept on Oswald, and told me that he had taken the opportunity to read the complete file at the time of the Assassination. He would not offer a great deal of detail about the exact content of the file, feeling unsure about the legality of discussing the top secret documents, which were contained in the file. I informed him that the Army file was 'routinely' destroyed in 1973, and Col. Jones testified about the file during the HSCA investigation.

There hasn't been very much in the published literature on the military intelligence's involvement with Oswald. According to Don there was a voluminous file kept on Oswald. Before I spoke with him again I wanted to be better informed on what was known about the contents of the intelligence file, and what the current thinking is concerning the military intelligence's role in a) surveillance of Oswald prior to the assisination b) the role of the MIG on Nov. 22, 1963 and c) a MIG investigation of the assasination, in Dallas and Atsugi, Japan. I therefore contacted Paul Hoch and informed him of my conversations.

Don is not a buff, and really hasn't followed the subject over the years. I lent him my copy of Tony Summers book "Conspiracy". While I described the alledged sighting of Oswald with Maurice Bishop, clearly I sensed a degree of understanding within Don that makes me believe that he possesses knowledge that can contribute to the continuing investigation.

I would like to share with you ALL the information that Don has provided me in our conversations. However I must ask you to keep this information confidential for the present.

Paul provided me with a photo copy of the ONI file that was submitted to the Warren Commission in Jan. 1964. I shared the photo copy of the file with Don.

The first point that Don made after reviewing the photocopy of the ONI file was that it was NOT the entire file that he had seen and read in 1963.

Don first read the Oswald file in the fall of 1963. He was on duty over a weekend when "business" was slow at ONI. He thought he reconized the photo of Oswald as someone he knew from Nashville; it wasn't, but Don became interested in the file because of Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union. The second time Don read the file was on the weekend of the assassination. The third time he read the file was after the assassination weekend. The fourth time he read the file was last week, it was the copy Paul supplied. The file immediately after the assassination was the same as the first time he read it (in the fall of '63). During the Assassination weekend the file was collected by his superiors and when he read it for the third time material was removed. When he read the version I provided, additional material had been deleted (other than the pages Paul identified as missing).

There was top secret material in the file that was deleted over the weekend of Nov 22.

Prior to the assassination there were specific instructions that all information relating to Oswald be forwarded to the CIA, a phone number and contact person (a code name) were provided. Don does not recall the code name but will try to remember, it was not Bishop. Further instructions were included that required CIA approval of any action ONI might take against Oswald. Don explained for instance if ONI had evidence to arrest Oswald, nothing could be done until the CIA approved the action. Don stated this kind of specific instructions was rare within ONI, but not unprecedented. These instructions were removed over the weekend.

Because of the security oath that he signed, he is unwilling to be more specific on material still classified. What Don did say was that ONI did have a surveillance on Oswald. The material in the file was more detailed than the output of a loose surveillance operation, therefore he believes ONI had conducted a tight

surveillance on Oswald. Don defined tight surveillance as including personal surveillance, mail intercepts and phone wiretaps. The surveillance information was deleted over the weekend of the 22nd.

Several items that he did recall included the military jacket (record) of Oswald, and several photographs of Oswald; military era photos. Don's description of the contents of the file after the weekend "sanitizing" was what one would EXPECT to find in the file of a military defector.

The information contained in the Oswald file suggested equally that Oswald might be an agent of the CIA or that he might be suspected to be a Soviet agent. Don said the talk around the command after the assassination was equally split between those who felt he was a Soviet agent and those who felt he was a CIA operative. Don did acknowledge that ONI was reluctant turn over to the CIA the role of sending fake defectors to USSR. Don's personal opinion is that Oswald may very well have been such a fake defector, but I need to clarify that point.

I had spoken last week with Don and during the course of that interview he revealed something that I believe may prove to be an important new avenue of research.

First, in recapping to Don the history of how the ONI file was turned over to the Warren Commission, I mentioned the name of Lt. Col. Bill Brewer. I don't know if anyone has ever researched this officer, but according to Don, Brewer was not Oswald's case worker, but the ONI liaison officer to the CIA.

Secondly, and most importantly, Don described to me his personal participation in an ONI post-assassination investigation of Oswald. He spent approximately 6 to 8 weeks on the assignment. The ONI investigation was able to draw a specific conclusion regarding the origin of the assassination; the assassination was most probably the result of a conspiracy and that Oswald's role was that of a decoy. Time constraints prohibited a detailed interview, so much work needs to be done in documenting the details of his statement. I believe there is a great deal of additional information that Don has yet to reveal; that because of his

interpretation of the security oath that he signed prior to his discharge from the Marines. Gaining this information will be a challenge. I don't believe Don is aware that his testimony is the first participant description of the ONI post-assassination investigation.

The report of the ONI Oswald investigation did not identify the conspirators. However, according to Don, the Dallas right-wing business community was a leading candidate early on in the ONI post-assassination investigation.

Don was associated with a part of the investigation that lead to Dallas and H.L. Hunt. ONI was informed that Oswald had several meetings with Mr. Hunt, and in addition Hunt arranged a meeting between Oswald, T. Cullen Davis and himself. The meeting was, in Don's words very secure, and that ONI could not substantiate the details of the meeting.

During that interview Don spoke on other issues:

when?

Oswald's visit to in Mexico City was known to ONI, after the Assassination Don was present during conversations regarding the surveillance photos taken of Oswald in Mexico City. The exact contents of the photos were never discussed, which lead (in '63) Don to the assumption that there was something in the photographs that the CIA was unwilling to identify. The Mexico City photos were never part of the ONI pre-assassination file; ONI passed information to the CIA but the CIA didn't pass information back to the ONI.

Don mentioned that there were a number of letters in Oswald's pre-assassination file addressed to Governor Connally including a letter threatening the Governor. I don't recall reading anything about a threatening letter, do you?

The name George DeMorenschildt also appeared in the pre-assassination file. I need to inquire about the context in which he was mentioned.

The more I talked to Don, I realized the extent of his knowledge of Oswald and the assassination. Don is a programmer, but at heart Don is still an intelligence officer. Unless I ask the right question he does not offer information. I am convinced that Don has answers to questions that I don't know to ask. I am also convinced that there is an entire area of the case that Don perceives as Top Secret that to date he refused to volunteer information on.

As I re-read the military intelligence report in Volume XI of the HSCA report I am struck not so much about what is said but by what is not said. For example, the report addresses what was requested of the Marines regarding the assassination, but the report never states what was provided; they said that DOD verified that the Air Force did not conduct a post-assassination inquiry, but nothing about the service that would have the prime responsibility for Oswald, the Marines. Page 542 describes Brewer's admission that the original ONI Oswald file submitted to the Warren Commission was stripped of all documents classified secret or top secret. Yet no mention to any follow-up questions as to the contents of such classified material.

Based on my interviews with Don, I can not help but to believe that there were two governmental investigations into the the death of President Kennedy. One conducted by the intelligence community and one conducted by the FBI for public consumption. I

don't know yet who authorized the ONI post-assassination investigation but if their investigation lead to a conspiracy conclusion, I believe that the CIA with a much greater volume of data on Oswald, had to have made a similar investigation, and I believe with a similar conclusion. It makes Lifton's thesis about an initial autopsy at Walter Reed more believable to me.

I had a chance to speak again with Don this week, and was able to document some of the details of his previous interview:

1. Almost all the staff in the Washington DC headquarters, between 25-30 agents, participated in the initial investigation. Lt.Col. Brewer had a central role in the coordination of the investigation.
2. The final report that went "upstairs" was in the form of an executive summary, approximately 10 pages long. The investigation produced between 600 to 700 pages of supporting documentation.
3. The ONI investigation team viewed the Zapruder film as apart of their work. Don thought that the film was the CIA's copy. The investigators viewing the film believed that the head shot came from the front. They also analyzed the bullet trajectory for the CE 399.
4. *diverted* ONI did not investigate any subject related in any manner with the autopsy, Don's belief is that they were directed away from this aspect, because it was the Navy responsible for the autopsy.
5. ONI secured a M/C rifle similar to Oswald's. There was no question in their minds that it was a piece of junk. They were unable to duplicate the timing or accuracy attributed to Oswald by the FBI.
6. WHO DONE IT?
  - a. One entire area of classified information that has not come to the surface involves the intelligence information secured and evidence collected regarding the radical right wing business community.
  - b. I mentioned the Hunt / Oswald / Davis meeting. *should I ask?* According to Don a person in Hunt's organization, who Don believed to be the source of the meeting tip, was killed in an auto accident at the same time ONI began its post assassination investigation of Hunt.

- c. I believe Don has an educated opinion on who was behind the assassination. An opinion based on the ONI investigation. We spoke about "who done it", I want to think about what he had said before I share it with anyone. In his words the truth may be stranger than fiction.

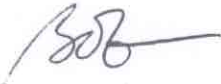
*not stranger  
like fiction*

7. Don was surprised that ONI did not delete the report of Oswald and Ruby being seen at Contract Electronics together.

That's a summary of our latest conversation. I have attempted to report his remarks without my own interpretations. I have attempted to solicit his own recollections about the files and the post-assassination investigation.

I have included in this letter the information I have gained from conversations I have had with Don and I have shared with Paul. I would like your reaction to this information and any insights that you may provide to me as to a suggested next step that I might take. Please give my best to Mrs. Weisberg.

Sincerely,



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