

ups of an anti-McCarren Act slogan and sent them to the defense committee as a contribution. On the front page of the same issue, big headlines proclaimed: "Gen. Walker Arrested for Insurrection" and, alongside:

Nation Supports the President's Action  
Punish the Gully!  
Gov. Barnett Gen. Walker  
White Citizens Council

One year ago on Nov. 12, 1961 *The Worker* exposed the fascist character of Gen. Edwin A. Walker and warned the Kennedy administration and the American people of the need for action against him and his allies. A front-page article asserted:

"The general thus becomes the first open candidate for leadership of the mass movement which the military-monopolist-pro-fascist plotters are now hoping to organize throughout the nation. . . . Critical of the "indecisiveness of the Kennedy administration in this situation," *The Worker* insisted last November that "firmness is essential" to defeat the ultra-Right. . . .

In the October 7 issue another front-page story, headlined "Gen. Walker Bids for Fuehrer Role," again warned "the Kennedy Administration and the American people of the need for action against him and his allies." Two weeks later an article, headlined "Oxford Campus Plot for Bloodbath Bared," contained the assertion that "a coded file, arms and other materials" found in a car driven by one of Walker's cronies would reveal that "financial backers of extreme right-wing groups" were "seeking the violent overthrow of the government."

Oswald probably read, and agreed with, a good deal of this. After his attempt to murder Walker the following April he told Marina he did it because Walker was another Hitler and by killing Hitler in time many lives could have been saved. Nothing in *The Worker's* call for political action advocated violence. Many other American newspaper editorials were saying much the same thing about Walker. Oswald already had his own ideas about the former army general. In his view, the man must have had three strikes against him—the opposed fair play for black Americans, he opposed Castro to the extent of calling for an invasion of Cuba, and he was a potential leader of a right-wing coup. But as we'll see, Oswald evidently came to believe that he could become a hero to the Left by doing away with him.

she had no idea or some on how because it is not true for the US needs more to not be helped but in and will not work. FBI did not know

## 8... Taking Action

FOR most of October and part of November 1962, when Oswald was living alone in Dallas, Marina and June were dependent on the charity of the Taylors and the Halls. From this time onward his family would stay almost a third of the time with other people. When Oswald came to visit Marina at the Taylors, their relationship seemed so impersonal to Gary that he thought it was "like two friends meeting." Oswald would play with his daughter but never attempted to be alone with his wife. Taylor decided Marina's feelings simply weren't important to him.

In fact, the Oswald marriage had been strained ever since the couple arrived in the United States. In Fort Worth, Oswald had struck his wife, giving her a black eye, for allowing Bouhe to teach her some English. This was only one of the ways in which he tried to exert his control over her. He was often rude and overbearing to his wife in front of other people, ordering her around in a domineering voice. As a teenager, he had yelled orders at his mother in the same manner. Most of their quarreling reflected their differences over his obsession with politics. Although Marina agreed with some of his views—she admired Castro, too—she felt the family should come first. To Oswald, such mundane concerns were bourgeois and stupid. She thought he had—as a later friend of Marina's would put it—"an overblown opinion of himself, and of what he could and should achieve in the world." He in turn complained about her lack of interest in politics. One of the émigrés, Katya Ford, was questioned about the Oswalds' relationship:



lanefully declared, "I can assure you that this flag will be returned to this brigade in a free Havana"—a prediction that drew tumultuous cheers from the audience. *The Militant* called it "the most barbed and disgusting display of immorality, ignorance and bad taste ever put on by a U.S. President." In its January 21 issue, *The Militant* published Castro's response to Kennedy's Miami appearance, a speech headlined, "We Will Not Stop Being Revolutionists." Castro said Kennedy had "conducted himself like a pirate." After citing the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban citizens who had been killed in exile raids and in internal counter-revolutionary attacks, he declared, "Mr. Kennedy, too much blood has flowed between you and us."

At the beginning of 1963 Oswald began making specific plans to assassinate General Walker. The final decision apparently came after January 21, when a federal grand jury in Mississippi released Walker after declining to indict him. The next day, the *Dallas Morning News* quoted Walker: "I am glad to be vindicated. . . . Today my hopes returned to the Cubans and millions of others who long to return to their homes. . . ." On January 27, Oswald ordered a Smith & Wesson .38 snub-nosed revolver from a Los Angeles mail-order firm, using "A. J. Hidell" as an alias.

This was his first known use of the Alek James Hidell alias. "Alek" had been his nickname in Russia. "Hidell" was probably an altered "Fidel," embraced by two of his own initials. The "James" is less certain but may have come from a fictional character he was known to have admired—James Bond.

It was apparently around this time that he printed up a phony ID in the name of Alek James Hidell—perhaps he thought he might need identification to pick up the gun at the post office. He also began studying a city map and a bus schedule to lay out an escape route from Walker's home on Turtle Creek Boulevard. And he began putting pressure on Marina to return to the Soviet Union with June. The Warren Commission evidently never realized why Oswald wanted to send his family to Russia. Marina testified, "Lee wanted me to go to Russia. . . . and I told him that if he wanted me to go then that meant he didn't love me and . . . in that case what was the idea of coming to the United States in the first place. Lee would say that it would be better for me to go to Russia. I did not know why. I did not know what he had in mind. He said he loved me but it would be better for me if I went to Russia."

Q. Did he have a job then?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you feel that you were getting along on what he was making?

A. Of course. . . .

Q. Did you understand when he suggested you return to Russia that he was proposing to break up your marriage?

A. I told him that I would go to Russia if he gave me a divorce, but he did not want to give me a divorce.

Q. Did he say why?

A. He said that if he were to give me a divorce that would break everything between us, which he didn't want. That he wanted to keep me as his wife.

When she was asked if she now understood why Oswald wanted her to return to the Soviet Union, she said, "Yes. . . . I think I know why[,] he had in mind to start his foolish activity which could harm me, but, of course, at that time he didn't tell me the reason. . . . At that time when I would ask him he would get angry because he couldn't tell me."

While he was waiting for the pistol to arrive, something happened to delay his plans. On February 14 the *Morning News* announced that Walker would be going out of town on a nationwide tour, dubbed "Operation Midnight Ride," from February 27 to April 3 to make speeches warning about the dangers of Castro and communism. Three days later Oswald forced the reluctant Marina, who wanted to stay in America, to sit down and write the following letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington:

I beg your assistance to help me to return to the homeland in the USSR where I will again feel myself a full-fledged citizen. Please let me know what I should do for this, i.e., perhaps it will be necessary to fill out a special application form. Since I am not working at present (because of my lack of knowledge of the English language and a small child), I am requesting you to extend to me a possible material aid for the trip. My husband remains here, since he is an American by nationality. I beg you once more not to refuse my request.

It is not too difficult to see Oswald's hand in this, especially in the phrase "full-fledged citizen" and in the request for "material aid." Since he couldn't afford to send his family to Russia, he expected the Russians to take care of it.

On February 22 Lee and Marina went to a party given by Everett

no source given and him can be given



It would not get into Mark's file. An FBI 2. Feb 7 of 1962  
Oswald's name is not in Oswald's file

114... Oswald's Game

Oswald reconnoitered the Walker house and grounds and ordered his rifle.

On the evening of April 10 Oswald went to Walker's home with the Mannlicher-Carcano, which he had concealed under a raincoat. He took a position in a dark alley behind a stockade fence, 120 feet from the back of the house. Inside he could see Edwin A. Walker through a lighted window sitting at his desk. The light obscured a strip of the window casing and the bullet missed, striking the wall just above Walker's head and leaving bits of wood and glass in his hair. Oswald ran without waiting to see the result. He hid the rifle and escaped on a city bus (exactly as he would do after the assassination of President Kennedy).

Around 10 o'clock that evening Marina grew restless wondering where he was. She went into his study and found a key and a note of instructions written in Russian:

1. This is the key to the mailbox which is located in the main post office in the city on Ervay Street. This is the same street where the drugstore, in which you always waited is located. You will find the mailbox in the post office which is located 4 blocks from the drugstore on that street. I paid for the box last month so don't worry about it.
2. Send the information as to what has happened to me to the Embassy and include newspaper clippings (should there be anything about me in the newspapers). I believe that the Embassy will come quickly to your assistance on learning everything.
3. I paid the house rent on the 2d so don't worry about it.
4. Recently I also paid for water and gas.
5. The money from work will possibly be coming. The money will be sent to our post office box. Go to the bank and cash the check.
6. You can either throw out or give my clothing, etc. away. Do not keep these. However, I prefer that you hold on to my personal papers (military, civil, etc.).
7. Certain of my documents are in the small blue valise.
8. The address book can be found on my table in the study should you need same.
9. We have friends here. The Red Cross also will help you (Red Cross in English) [sic].
10. I left you as much money as I could, \$60 on the second of the month. You and the baby can live for another 2 months using \$10 per week.
11. If I am alive and taken prisoner, the city jail is located at the end of the bridge through which we always passed on going to the city (right in the beginning of the city after crossing the bridge).

She was not in the room following the two alleged assassinations of Abbott and Walker.

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Marina testified that when her husband got home that night he was pale. He told her what he had done, and defended his action by describing General Walker as "the leader of a fascist organization." She responded by saying even though that might be true, he had no right to take his life. She made him promise never to do such a thing again, and tucked the note of instructions he had left her into one of her books. She told the Assassinations Committee that Oswald "felt quite strongly that he was doing a justice to the people" and considered her a fool for not understanding him. She quoted Oswald: "Well, what would you say if somebody got rid of Hitler at the right time? So if you don't know about General Walker, how can you speak up on his behalf?" She reported that after reading the news accounts the next day Oswald was "kind of angry" that he missed him, but at the same time "kind of pleased with himself, with the clever fellow he was" in getting away with it.

Oswald destroyed the notebook he'd used for the planning, but kept the photographs of Walker's house and its surroundings and the photographs of himself holding the rifle. He evidently wanted a record of the attempt for some future use. It's possible he was even considering another attempt to kill Walker, at some later date after the police attention subsided.

One may ask why Marina didn't immediately go to the Dallas police. In retrospect it is easy to condemn her. But Marina evidently didn't leave her husband or go to the police for much the same reasons other battered wives often choose to stay with their husbands—at times, she was afraid of him. Someone on the Assassinations Committee asked her, "What do you think he would have done if you had gotten rid of the rifle?" And she answered, "Well, he probably would have got rid of me." She had no one else, no way of supporting herself and June; and she was three months into a second pregnancy. But despite everything she still loved him and hoped he would change.

Marina did not realize that Oswald could not change without giving up the image he had of himself as an idealist who acted on his principles. His feelings of self-worth derived not from his work or personal relationships, but from his ideology. The assassination attempt against Walker, like his defection, revealed Oswald's extreme dedication to his political beliefs. All else was secondary to him—his family, even the question of whether he lived or died. At the same time, Oswald expected and craved recognition as a revolutionary hero. Both these events were clearly designed to attract worldwide attention to himself as well as to his cause. Giving up these ideas, as



Oswald to prove himself. He had already made one attempt to penetrate the enemy underground. Now, if he could just make contact with the exile leaders involved in these "terrorist plans," he might come up with an even bigger trophy: inside information about the plots to kill Cuba's leaders. Once again he would seek out an exile group and offer his help—not as a guerrilla leader this time, but as a marksman who could assassinate Fidel. He would try to infiltrate as a volunteer, as he had before. While he was at it, he'd plant another little seed of provocation. He'd attempt to goad the exiles into retaliating against Kennedy.

In other words, the Odio incident was Oswald's reaction to Castro's warning.

Although I was fairly convinced of this by 1976, I still didn't understand why Oswald and the others went all the way to Dallas to carry out this scheme. Why did they go to Sylvia Odio, in particular? An article in the *Saturday Evening Post* that year provided an answer. The authors, George O'Toole and Paul Hoch, had apparently discovered more about Odio's father from some of the large number of Warren Commission records that were declassified in 1976. It turns out that Odio's parents weren't ordinary political prisoners, as the Warren Report suggested. They had been indirectly involved in a spectacular plot to assassinate Castro in 1961.

The plot was the work of Antonio Veciana and Reinaldo Gonzales, members of the anti-Castro underground. Veciana's mother had rented an apartment near the presidential palace from which they planned to fire a bazooka to kill Castro and other officials. Before their plan could be carried out, however, word of it reached the Cuban police. Veciana and his mother escaped to Miami, while Gonzales fled to a farm that was owned by Sylvia Odio's parents. Gonzales was tracked down and arrested, as were the Odios. Castro himself announced the breaking up of this plot at a public meeting in Havana in October 1961. At the time, the Odio daughters were already out of the country.

Having somehow learned of her father's background, her visitors apparently concluded (however mistakenly) that Amador Odio's eldest daughter might be interested in introducing a volunteer hit man to her. They talked first about the details of her father's activities in Cuba. Then, "after they mentioned my father they started talking about the American. He said, 'You are working in the underground.' And I said, 'No, I am sorry to say I am not working in the under-

*Handwritten:* Oswald  
M... W...

ground.' And he said, 'We wanted you to meet this American. His name is Leon Oswald.' . . . And they introduced him as an American who was very much interested in the Cuban cause." Oswald told her the same thing, then stood silently, evaluating the situation. The underlying logic seemed to be: *We know about your father's connection with a terrorist plot to kill Castro. We believe you have contacts with the underground. Here is an American you can use.* Had Odio invited them in, she might well have heard the rest of their proposal about Oswald that evening.

What did they want from Mrs. Odio? Apparently, they hoped she would know, and tell them, the name of the right person to see—the leader behind these new assassination plots. And, in fact, it appears that Odio may have had a reputation for being able to put people in touch with the anti-Castro underground. Mrs. Odio told the Commission that in June 1963 she had spoken with a Uruguayan named Johnny Martin who claimed he could provide the exiles with second-hand weapons if she could put him in touch with an appropriate leader. As she later said, she had "jumped at the opportunity that something could be done" and arranged a meeting between Martin and an exile leader in Miami.

Mrs. Odio believed it would not have been difficult for anyone to find her. She testified that shortly before the Oswald incident, a speaker at an anti-Castro meeting in Dallas had mentioned that he knew her father in Cuba and that Amador Odio's daughters were living in that city. Odio said she could have been located by calling the Catholic refugee relief agency or even by consulting the phone book.

Overall, one gets the impression that Cubans in this country formed a tightly knit community in which news got around easily and secrets were hard to keep. Oswald may have found Mrs. Odio the same way he apparently found Bringer—simply by asking around. Another New Orleans anti-Castro exile, Ernesto Rodriguez, has recently claimed that Oswald had also visited him to offer his services as a guerrilla warfare specialist, and that it was he who sent Oswald to see Bringer. Thus, it appears that Oswald made more forays into the anti-Castro camp than anyone realized, or wanted to admit.

The real names of the two Latin Americans will probably never be known. We know enough only to speculate about their roles. The evidence suggests they were not anti-Castro activists, as they claimed. Angelo was likely the Latin American of similar appearance that Oswald was seen with in New Orleans. Both men evidently lied when

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TO : Mr. Conrad *DMC*  
FROM : R. H. Jevons *RHJ*  
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY,  
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS

DATE 3/27/64

File  
Hester  
J. Levin  
Lavel  
Tetter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Gandy

In accordance with the verbal request of Mr. Melvin Eisenberg of The President's Commission and with prior approval, SAs Henry B. Heiberger and John F. Gallagher met with Mr. Eisenberg on 3/26/64, to discuss spectrographic examinations conducted on materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

SA Heiberger discussed the spectrographic comparison examinations which he conducted in the Laboratory. SA Heiberger advised that the lead alloy of the bullet recovered from the attempted shooting of General Walker was different from the lead alloy of a large bullet fragment recovered from the car in which President Kennedy was shot. SA Gallagher advised Mr. Eisenberg the spectrographic examinations of the bullet fragments recovered from the wound in President Kennedy's head and from the vehicle in which President Kennedy was riding at the time of his assassination were composed of the same chemical elements.

As reported in my memorandum of March 17, 1964 (Jevons to Conrad, REE HARVEY OSWALD, IS - R), SA Gallagher discussed with Mr. Eisenberg the neutron activation analyses of the paraffin casts from Oswald. This technique you will recall revealed deposits on the casts characteristic of powder residues. However, it was not possible to distinguish the powder residues of the rifle cartridges from the powder residues of the revolver cartridges. It was in connection with this examination that Mr. Eisenberg then discussed with SA Gallagher a letter of Dr. Paul C. Mebersold, Director, Division of Isotopes Development, Atomic Energy Commission, to Assistant Attorney General Herbert J. Miller, which was dated December 11, 1963, and subsequently forwarded to The Commission. He read from this letter the following:

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley

12-109060

JFG:gl  
(11)

APR 12 1964

APR 8 1964

REC 7

62-109060-2845

EX-103

25 APR 1964

FILE

AIB/DSL

PLH ITEM # 55



Memorandum to Mr. Conrad  
Re: ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY,  
11/22/63, DALIAS, TEXAS  
62-109060

"We would hope soon to have more details on whether the method (neutron activation analyses) will give useful information to distinguish between smoke deposits from revolvers and those from rifles--by means of their distribution on the body of the person firing them and by the levels of antimony and barium (and perhaps other elements) deposited."

Mr. Eisenberg then asked if more detailed background was available at this date. It was pointed out by SA Gallagher that Dr. Aebersold's letter was written prior to the actual activation analyses examinations of Oswald's casts. No elements were found during these tests to distinguish between rifle and revolver deposits. Mr. Gallagher further pointed out that the data in the present instance were further complicated by Oswald's firing of the revolver subsequent to the firing of the rifle and by the fact that the casts have been chemically treated and washed prior to receipt for neutron activation analyses. Nothing has come to our attention and to our knowledge nothing has been done subsequent to these examinations which would assist further in the interpretation of the data obtained from the activation analyses of the paraffin casts from Oswald.

ACTION: None, for information.