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Winton memo

MEMO TO: Charlie Winton
FROM: Gaeton Fonzi

In his book, *Case Closed*, Gerald Posner deals with at least four areas of the Kennedy assassination about which I have specific knowledge as a result of my role as a Federal Government investigator on the case. In each of these areas, Posner appears to have selectively chosen, ignored and/or distorted the presentation of facts in order to support his conclusions. He apparently failed to conduct enough original research to evaluate the validity of evidence produced by the Warren Commission, the Senate JFK Subcommittee and the House Assassinations Committee. In addition, it's obvious that Posner did not have access to numerous government documents which contradict his conclusions.

1. "The Odio Incident." Posner draws heavily from FBI documents generated for the Warren Commission. The House Assassinations Committee found many of these documents were specifically generated to impeach Odio's character because the substance of her testimony contradicted the lone-gunman conclusions the Warren Commission was then in the process of finalizing. The Assassinations Committee negated the validity of those FBI reports and, with its own thorough investigation, proved without a doubt that Odio was a credible witness whose testimony linked Oswald with anti-Castro associates prior to the assassination.
2. "The Veciana-Bishop Evidence." Posner deliberately relegates this crucial area of the investigation to a footnote in his book and distorts the House Assassinations Committee's conclusions. Antonio Veciana, the founder and chief of the militant anti-Castro Cuban exile group, Alpha 66, is an historically significant figure who has an impeccable reputation among his fellow exiles for his honesty and integrity. Veciana testified both before the Senate Intelligence Committee and the House Assassinations Committee that he saw his CIA liaison with Oswald prior to the assassination. After the assassination, that liaison asked to help plant false information linking Oswald to Castro's intelligence agency. Overwhelming evidence proves that the liaison, who used the name of Maurice Bishop, was high-ranking CIA officer David Atlee Phillips. Posner makes no mention of the fact -- likely because he wasn't aware of it -- that David Atlee Phillips, in order to avoid any association with the name of Maurice Bishop, perjured himself before the Assassinations Committee.

3. "Oswald's Intelligence Connections." Posner dismisses any links of Oswald to the Central Intelligence Agency on the basis of interviews with KGB personnel and a review of KGB files. That conclusion flies in the face of an enormous amount of evidence (including the notation of "microdots" in Oswald's notebook and the Minox spy camera and negatives of foreign military installations found among Oswald's possessions after the assassination) and contradicts the firm opinion of many previous investigators of the assassination. Former Senator Richard Schweiker, a conservative Republican and respected member of the Senate Select Intelligence Committee, initiated the Senate JFK Subcommittee after a personal evaluation of the evidence, which included access to secret government documents, led him to publicly declare that "Oswald had intelligence connections" and that the "fingerprints of intelligence" were all over his activities.

4. "The DeMohrenschildt Connection." Posner dismisses Oswald's association with George DeMohrenschildt, whom the House Assassinations concluded had links to the Central Intelligence Agency, as inconsequential and irrelevant to the Kennedy assassination. That contradicts not only the evidence available to the Assassinations Committee but also the conclusion of Oswald's biographer, Edward Jay Epstein, who found that DeMohrenschildt was "Oswald's handler." Posner also fails to give significance to the fact that within hours after he learned I intended to question him about his association with Oswald, DeMohrenschildt committed suicide.

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