

Memorandum

U. S. Secret Service

TO : Chief, Washington

DATE: Feb. 6, 1964

FROM : SAIC Sorrels, Dallas

SUBJECT: Ilja Mamantov, - Russian Interpreter used by
Dallas Police Department.

When the Dallas Police Department first determined that it would be necessary to have a Russian interpreter to interview Mrs. Marina Oswald. They contacted a Mr. Jack Crichton in an attempt to locate a person who was fluent in both the Russian and English languages. Mr. Crichton, a local independent oil operator, who is a Colonel in the Army Reserve and heads a local Army Intelligence Unit, recommended the subject for this job. Mr. Crichton was contacted and advised that the subject had never done any interpreting work for the Army Intelligence Unit and was not listed on their list of interpreters since this particular group had not had a need for a Russian interpreter. He stated that he recommended the subject due to his personal knowledge of his fluent handling of both the Russian and English languages. He stated that he had known subject for approximately 6 years on a social and business basis since they were both members of the Geological Society and he came in contact with the subject through his dealings in the oil industry. He said to his knowledge Mr. Mamantov was active in Republican party affairs, was a precinct chairman and had made many talks throughout the Dallas area regarding the adverse effects of Communism.

Mr. Crichton further stated that he would personally vouch for Mr. Mamantov and that he was an excellent person, and though conservative in his thinking, he held no ill will toward the Administration of President Kennedy. He stated to the best of his knowledge Mr. Mamantov had no unamerican tendencies and to the best of his knowledge was an extremely loyal citizen.

A check with the Sun Oil Company, Dallas, Texas, revealed that subject has been employed by them since September 20, 1955, in the capacity of a Geologist and Geophysical worker. His records show that he was born Feb. 17, 1914 in Tartu, Estonia and that his parents Alexander Mamantov and his mother, Helen Pribitkov, were both native born Russians. In 1955 the father resided at Box 175, Greystone Park, New Jersey. The subject has Social Security No. 075-26-0755. He is married to the former Alexandra Cravitis, who was born June 30, 1911, at Windau, Estonia.

The subject's public and high school education was obtained in Latvia and he attended the University of Latvia where he received his MS degree in Geology in 1942. The subject's work record showed that he was employed by the Latvian Relief Bureau in Munich, Germany, from 1945 until 1949 by a manufacturing firm in New Jersey and by the Donnelly Geophysical Company in Dallas from 1951 to 1955, and then the Sun Oil Company where he is presently employed. Credit reports for the subject from Munich, Germany; Roswell, New Mexico and Dallas, Texas all reveal that he is a well respected and highly talented man with no bad credit background. He has no low moral habits and consumes intoxicants on a social level only. All credit reports spoke very highly of this subject.

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The credit report was requested from the European Office for Latvia and Estonia but none could be obtained since this country is now under domination of Russia.

Mr. E. R. Hyde, Personnel Director, Sun Oil Company, Dallas, Texas, advised that he was personally acquainted with subject and spoke extremely high of him in regard to his personal and educational characteristics. He advised that while there was no record of a security clearance of any type in the subject's file, that prior to his employment, since he was not a citizen at the time he was employed, a check was made with the company that conducted clearances out of Washington, D. C. and the subject was found not to be a security risk. He stated that subject received his citizenship approximately two months after he came to work for the Sun Oil Company on November 8, 1955.

WHP:VS

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