

Was the CIA Involved in the Assassination of
President Kennedy or the Cover Up Conspiracy?

Introduction:

For more than ten years there has been much speculation about whether the Central Intelligence Agency played a role in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. With the Watergate revelations, the testimony of such well known CIA types as Richard Helms, E. Howard Hunt, and James McCord, and with many questions about the CIA's role in the Watergate episode still unanswered, it seems pertinent to once again raise the questions in the title. Was the CIA involved in some way in the conspiracy to assassinate John Kennedy, and was the agency involved in the second conspiracy to cover up the first?

Various assassination researchers and writers have, through the ten years, shown substantial evidence that CIA front organizations and former CIA agents were involved in the first conspiracy and that the CIA itself was deeply involved in the cover up conspiracy. (1) (2) (3) (4) Recent revelations and new evidence has appeared that make the questions worth further exploration.

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This is a copy of an article Richard Sprague wrote for Computers and People. It has not been published yet.

Sprague sent it to me as a favor. I'd like to know what you think of it.

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 significant meeting in view of the fact that JFK had ordered all CIA support of anti-Castro groups to be stopped in the spring and summer of 1963. He had the FBI and the Coast Guard close the training camps in Florida and Louisiana and even arrest some of the anti Castro invaders. He was working on a detente with Castro, having sent secret emmissaries to Cuba.

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 Is it possible that Helms and Hunt knew that Kennedy would be assassinated on November 22, 1963 and decided to go ahead with plans for a Cuban invasion, secure in the knowledge that JFK would not be around to stop it again?

Richard Helms, Victor Marchetti and Clay Shaw:

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 Despite the end result of the trial of Clay Shaw, substantial evidence exists that he, David Ferrie and other individuals were involved in the planning of the assassination in New Orleans and in Mexico City. During the Shaw trial and during the two years that Shaw and his lawyers managed to delay the trial, Jim Garrison, Jim Alcock, and others on Garrison's staff wondered at how great Shaw's support seemed to be. Even the New Orleans newspapers found it strange that Shaw could afford all of the legal and detective resources he seemed to have. On more than one occasion the papers reported that Shaw's lawyers were being paid by the CIA.

Garrison's witnesses were discovered and followed around and eventually intimidated by various people. Shaw seemed to know who the prosecution witnesses were going to be well in advance of the public knowledge. Garrison's staff was riddled with informers and agents of various types. When he would claim that the CIA was somehow involved in the case because they had been involved in the assassination the press would pooh pooh the idea and get on Garrison's back. That was the way matters stood after the trial was over and after "Heritage of Stone" was published. Garrison was harrassed by the government and the press. He was framed in a conspiracy by the Justice Dept. and the Internal Revenue Service for alleged bribe taking and for cheating on his income tax.

Garrison was found innocent on both counts by juries of his peers in August 1973 and March 1974. The press still climbed all over him portraying the trial results as Garrison talking his way out of both charges by influencing the juries.

In December 1973, a piece of information came to light that not only proves the press was wrong about Garrison and Shaw, but implicates Richard Helms and the CIA in the whole situation to the point that a full re-examination of the CIA's role in the assassination is necessary. The information comes from a CIA employee, Victor Marchetti, who is co-author of a book about the CIA that has caused a stir of controversy in the courts. Marchetti's book is about to be published by a well known publisher over the strenuous objections of the CIA. A court has ruled that the book can be published with only a fraction of the deletions demanded originally by the CIA.

Marchetti denies + told me opposite, was not present, not in his DAD, either

Marchetti stated in December that he had attended several high level CIA meetings in 1968 with Richard Helms and Marchetti's boss, assistant director Admiral Rufus Taylor present. He said they were very much concerned about Garrison's investigation and the arrest of Clay Shaw in early 1967. Helms stated that Shaw had been for many years a CIA informant and was still helping the CIA at the time JFK was killed. Helms stated that David Ferrie was a CIA agent and that he was still an agent at the time of the assassination.

Helms and Taylor agreed that the fact that both Shaw and Ferrie were working for the CIA had to be kept secret at all costs. They stated in the meetings that Shaw would receive all the help the CIA could give him in his defense against the charge of conspiracy to assassinate the president. Marchetti said he made other inquiries around the agency and determined that Shaw was an informer in his capacity as manager of the New Orleans International Trade Mart. Marchetti said he was not sure what form "all the help the CIA could give Shaw" took, but he always assumed they were paying Shaw's lawyers.

This report may be interpreted by some as the CIA's taking the position that one of their own men was accused of killing the president of the United States, and since he was innocent that he had to be protected. However, if an objective view is taken of Shaw's true CIA position and his provable actions in concert with David Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald, William Seymour, and Jack Ruby and others, the big question must be raised.

Clay Shaw, Major L.M. Bloomfield and Centro Moderno Commerciale (CMC):

Clay Shaw was a member of the board of directors of a very important CIA organization called CMC, headquartered in Rome at the time. CMC was engaged in various clandestine and secret operations and spying for the CIA in the early 1960's. It utilized International Trade Marts around the world, like the one Shaw managed in New Orleans and also the one where John Kennedy was scheduled to speak on November 22, 1963, for these activities. Another member of the CMC board was Major L.M. Bloomfield of Montreal. Shaw and Ferrie flew on the same plane to visit Bloomfield in Montreal at a time during the summer of 1963, when backing for the assassination was being sought. Certainly Helms and Taylor were well aware of Bloomfield and Shaw's role in CMC, and could easily have known about the meetings taking place in Montreal and in Ferrie's apartment in New Orleans. It was at one of these meetings, attended by Shaw and Ferrie, that Perry Russo, Sandra Moffett McMains, and Nils (Lefty) Peterson saw both of them with William Seymour (the Oswald double) and several Cubans. (Two of whom were Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, and Emilio Santana).

The CIA probably aided these people as well as Gordon Novel, a CIA operative, whose girl friend, Sandra Moffett, told him about the

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 meeting. Novel, who had been operating for CIA front organizations with Guy Bannister and David Ferrie in New Orleans knew who killed Ferrie to keep him from telling Garrison about the assassination team. Novel went to McLean, Va., home of the CIA, and then to Ohio, to avoid testifying before the New Orleans grand jury. Governor Rhodes of Ohio protected Novel from extradition to Louisiana, causing a big argument with Governor McKeithen who backed up Garrison. Novel made a public statement that he would come to New Orleans voluntarily from Ohio and tell the grand jury who killed David Ferrie, provided he was given immunity from prosecution. Garrison refused this offer, so Novel remained in Ohio. He is still there.

Another CIA front employee who was accused of participating in the JFK assassination planning was Sergio Arcacha Smith. The CIA probably protected him from prosecution in New Orleans. He fled to Texas where his extradition was prevented by Governor Connally.

Sandra Moffett McMains was in Nebraska when Garrison issued a warrant for her arrest. He wanted to find out what she knew about the meeting in Ferrie's apartment. By the simple, but little known expedient of crossing the border into Iowa, Mrs. McMains avoided the subpoena. Iowa was one of the few states with no extradition agreements with other states. Garrison calculated that someone, like the CIA, gave her advice on what to do.

Novel wrote a letter before he left New Orleans addressed to a Mr. Weiss in the Defense Intelligence Agency suggesting that Garrison's investigation had to be stopped. He requested that the powers of the intelligence community be brought to bear on stopping the investigation. The letter was discovered by two women who rented Novel's old apartment hidden under linoleum in the kitchen. Novel laughed it off by saying it was a trick he had played on Garrison.

Oswald's Connections With the CIA & FBI:

A large amount of evidence has been accumulated that shows Oswald was a CIA operative from 1959 until he died. The evidence points to the fact that he had been working for the CIA in New Orleans in 1963 on clandestine activities connected with Guy Bannister's CIA funded operations for a second invasion of Cuba. Arcacha Smith, Gordon Novel, David Ferrie, Jack Ruby, Mike McLaney, Oswald, and several others were all involved in these operations. When John Kennedy put a stop to the plans in the summer of 1963, and several of these people began the discussions about assassinating him, Oswald became part of the group. In the summer months he turned informer on the group, reporting what he knew about their assassination plans to the FBI. Substantial evidence exists that Oswald was a paid FBI informant from mid summer in New Orleans and in the fall in Dallas, and that he was submitting regular reports on the activities of the assassination group to two FBI agent contacts in New Orleans and one in Dallas.

The fact that Oswald worked for both the CIA and the FBI, has until recent months, seemed to provide the prime motive for the two agencies

to cover up the truth. It has also seemed to make sense that the Warren Commission, dominated by CIA and Armed Forces individuals, Allen Dulles, Gerald Ford, John J. McCloy and Richard Russell, would be forced to go along with the cover up to keep Oswald's connections with the agencies a secret. The Commission was faced with a dilemma when Waggoner Carr, Texas Attorney General, told them in January 1964 that Oswald was a paid FBI informer and he gave them his pay number.

Several top secret Commission sessions (they are still classified) were held right after this news arrived, during which the Commission could have arrived at their cover up decision.

With Marchetti's revelation and Hunt's testimony and Szulc's discovery however, a much better reason for the CIA to cover up the crime surfaces. Helms had to know who did what and with so many of his agents and employees directly involved in the assassination, he had little choice but to go to extreme lengths to cover up. This reasoning assumes that Helms did not take an active role in the assassination itself. He was Deputy Director of Plans, (the clandestine part of the CIA) at the time. Even if Helms had participated or had known prior to the assassination that it was going to take place, this still does not imply that the entire CIA backed the assassination. However, the question of what did Helms know and when did he know it must definitely be asked. A corollary question is what did John McCone, head of the CIA at the time, know and when did he know it. Another question is what did Allen Dulles know and when did he know it. This question extends then to Lyndon Johnson, John Connally, Gerald Ford, John McCloy, Earl Warren, Richard Russell, Hale Boggs and John Sherman Cooper.

A Congressional Investigation of the CIA:

If a Congressional investigation is ever conducted on the CIA and its clandestine activities, the question of involvement in presidential assassination should head the list of topics. It seems vastly more important than any other questions about the CIA, even including the Viet Nam war. If "The Secret Team" can assassinate our President, cover it up and get away with it for ten years, we can abandon hope of ever straightening out our country.

Discussions are under way in both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees about investigating the CIA. It is doubtful that these committees have seen any of the evidence referred to in this article, nor do they have in mind an investigation of the John Kennedy assassination and the role of the CIA. They should.

FOOTNOTES & SOURCES

- (1) Jim Garrison - "Heritage of Stone"
- (2) Paris Falmonde - "The Kennedy Conspiracy,
Meridith Press, N.Y.C. 1969 - N.Y.C. 1971
- (3) R. E. Sprague - "The Classified Documents and
The CIA and The New York Times"
Also May, 1970 - Photo Evidence
- (4) Vincent Salandria
- (5) Tad Szulc "Compulsive Spy"
- (6) Ronald Augustinovich file - CTIA Headquarters
- (7) Richard Case Nagell file - " "
- (8) Harry Dean file " "