

SFChronicle

# KGB Agent's

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Testimony

## On Oswald

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### Washington

On Feb. 4, 1964, ten weeks after President Kennedy's assassination, Lieutenant Colonel Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko of the KGB (Soviet state security) defected to the United States in Geneva.

He said, among other things, that he had handled the file on Lee Harvey Oswald since the ex-Marine's arrival in Moscow in 1959.

Brought to the United States by the Central Intelligence Agency, Nosenko was turned over to the FBI on Feb. 26, 1964, for several days of interrogation about Oswald, who the Warren Commission said acted alone in assassinating Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The interrogation report — part of the Warren Commission's secret file, but never cited in testimony or in conclusions — has been declassified. This account is taken from Nosenko's interrogation.

CIA

Nosenko painted a picture of Soviet security officers so leery of Oswald, whom they considered mentally unstable and possibly a "sleeper" American agent, that they tried to get him out of the country and vetoed his return when he applied in Mexico City in September, 1963.

Nosenko's offer to testify in secret before the Warren Commission was declined.

John McCone, then director of the CIA, told this reporter that his counterintelligence officers suspected Nosenko might be a plant to exonerate the Soviets of conspiracy.

When McCone appeared before the Warren Commission with his deputy, Richard Helms, in June, 1964, they said that there was "no evidence" of a Soviet conspiracy in Kennedy's assassination.

McCone now says that Nosenko's bona fides "subsequently were proven" and that "it is today the position of the CIA that the information given by Nosenko was correct."

Not only did Nosenko deny any Soviet conspiracy, but he said he knew of "no Cuban involvement in the assassination."

Much longer article, by Schorr, filed Warren Commission, with notes by HW.