

19 APR 70

A291

see also this file 14 Feb 70

26 APR 70

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Telegraph Editors:

The following story substitutes for A210, which was eliminated.

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Powers

NEW YORK 3AP - Francis Gary Powers says information supplied by Lee Harvey Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, may have made it possible for the Russians to shoot down his U2 spy plans in 1960. Powers was captured and imprisoned by the Russians after parachuting from his plane which had been shot down. He was released in 1962 in exchange for Rudolf Abel, who had been convicted in the United States of spying for the Soviet Union.

The story of Powers' experience is told in "Operation Overflight," a book to be published May 1 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Some newspapers, including the Philadelphia Inquirer and Chicago Today, published Sunday the first installment of a serialization of the

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On Sunday, the Pentagon had no comment.

Oswald, a former Marine radar operator, defected to Russia in October 1959, and that same month appeared at the U.S. Embassy and announced his intention to renounce his U.S. citizenship.

Powers notes that Oswald, according to the Warren Report on Kennedy's assassination, told the American diplomats that he had offered to give the Russians any information he had on Marine Corps operations and intimated that he might know something of special interest.

Powers says in the book that it is "tantalizing" that one document among the Warren Commission papers in the National Archives, No. 931 dated May 13, 1964, remains classified as top secret—a document entitled "Oswald's Access to Information about the U2."

Powers says Oswald, when he was assigned to Marine air control radar units at Atsugi, Japan, and El Toro, Calif., had access to radar and radio codes and to the then-new MPS 16 height-finding radar equipment.

This equipment could locate planes at very high altitudes such as the U2 flew at, and Powers indicates he believes that the Russians did not have the height-finding radar before Oswald went to the Soviet Union.

Powers also notes that while El Toro was not a U2 base, "U2s frequently flew over this portion of Southern California."

Powers says there were two U2 flights over Russia after Oswald defected—one on April 9, 1960, which was uneventful and his own, on May 1, 1960.

The uproar that followed the shooting down of the U2 by the Russians led to the collapse of a summit conference about to start in Paris between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

Testimony before the Warren Commission said Oswald had received instruction in MPS height-finding radar gear. It was also testified that some codes and signals had been changed after Oswald's defection but that there would have been no way to offset the basic instruction Oswald had gotten.

The commission investigated the assassination of the president and found that it was the work of Oswald, acting alone.

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Powers Correction

\* NEW YORK, Powers-Oswald A291 to correct name of newspaper using, 3rd graf read: including the Philadelphia Bulletin—not "Inquirer," The AP

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