

Oswald friend vowed suicide, psychiatrist claimed

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By EARL GOLZ

A psychiatrist told The News one week before George de Mohrenschildt committed suicide Tuesday that during an examination last October De Mohrenschildt told him, "I am depressed. I am killing myself."

The psychiatrist, who asked not to be identified at this time, said De Mohrenschildt, 65, came to him Oct. 29 and stated that he be committed as a mental patient to Terrell State Hospital. Four days later, after the psychiatrist had made arrangements for admitting him voluntarily, De Mohrenschildt changed his mind and decided not to go to Terrell.

The psychiatrist said the Russian-born De Mohrenschildt didn't mention that he had personally known Lee Harvey Oswald before the Kennedy assassination, but he "was very depressed and came for help."

The News had relayed the psychiatrist's identity and telephone number the same day to Robert Tannenbaum

the House Assassinations Committee's chief investigator of the Kennedy case.

Neither Tannenbaum nor any other committee representative had contacted the psychiatrist by the time De Mohrenschildt had shot himself eight days later in West Palm Beach, Fla.

On Nov. 9, one week after De Mohrenschildt changed his mind about entering Terrell State Hospital, the former Mrs. De Mohrenschildt filed court papers with the Dallas County Mental Illness Department to force his commitment to the psychiatric unit of Parkland Memorial Hospital.

De Mohrenschildt agreed to go to Parkland voluntarily and stayed eight weeks until Dec. 30. He received electric shock treatment as a psychotic depressive.

A Dutch journalist, Willem Oltmans, about a month ago told the congressional committee he interviewed De Mohrenschildt seven weeks after he left Parkland Hospital. It was that interview, in which Oltmans said De Mohrenschildt asserted he knew in advance what Oswald was going to do be-

fore the assassination, that put the spotlight on De Mohrenschildt.

De Mohrenschildt, who had befriended Oswald and his wife when they came to the Dallas-Fort Worth area from Russia in 1962, left his post as a professor of French at Bishop College here March 1, a week after the Oltmans interview. They went to Belgium and Holland before De Mohrenschildt returned to this country March 17 to take up residence in the West Palm Beach mansion of a cousin of one of his four former wives.

De Mohrenschildt's last wife, Jeanne, in seeking to commit him to Parkland Hospital Nov. 9, told county authorities he had tried to commit suicide four times.

The last attempt, she told authorities, was Oct. 28, one day before he had come to the psychiatrist with a request to be committed to Terrell State Hospital. That amounted to an attempt to "drown himself in the bath tub," she told county authorities.

Other suicide attempts, the former Mrs. De Mohrenschildt said, involved

cutting his wrists and consuming entire bottles of drugs.

The mental illness history of De Mohrenschildt, as given county authorities by his former wife, related that he asserted "his telephone is bugged. The house is bugged — voices and people eavesdropping to what he says."

The former Mrs. De Mohrenschildt's mental illness history also stated he thought the FBI was "after him" and "the Jewish Mafia is closing in on him." She said he was having delusions of "ghosts of FBI and Jews."

The psychiatrist who made arrangements for De Mohrenschildt's commitment to Terrell State Hospital said one week before De Mohrenschildt killed himself he thought last October he was "suicidal."

"Obviously this man was depressed, wanted to escape, wanted freedom from his depression," the psychiatrist said, "and was suffering from delusions, which, of course, goes together. This doesn't make anyone crazy. . . . We are dealing with an extremely intelligent man."