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# Oswald Cohort Death Raises Questions

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Washington — When George de Mohrenschildt disappeared in Brussels last March 7, he could have been tabbed either as just another eccentric or someone out to profit by his acquaintance with Lee and Marina Oswald.

Or, just possibly, he could have been the man responsible for Oswald's behavior when President John F. Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, as he reportedly acknowledged in the manuscript of a book he had written.

This much is known about the 65-year-old Ukrainian emigre, who reportedly left the Soviet Union in 1921: — He is dead of a gunshot wound, apparently self-inflicted in Palm Beach, Fla.

— He was of sufficient interest to the House Select Committee on Assassinations that one of its investigators was in Palm Beach on Tuesday seeking to interview him when the ostensible suicide occurred.

— He is once again of considerable interest to the FBI, which devoted a major portion of Book 9 to the Warren Commission Report to de Mohrenschildt.

It has long been known that de Mohrenschildt, as part of the Dallas Russian-speaking community, was close to Lee Harvey Oswald and his Russian wife, Marina. The FBI says it checked him out every way possible after the assassination.

The House Committee to contact de

Mohrenschildt because Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans had told the committee on March 11 that the emigre Russian count intended to tell his version of the Kennedy murder in a book entitled "I'm a Patsy, I'm a Patsy."

In the book, de Mohrenschildt was said to take responsibility for Oswald's actions in the death of Kennedy.

In an interview, Oltmans said he had known de Mohrenschildt — a petroleum engineer and teacher of French at Bishop College — for 10 years. Oltmans said he visited George and Jeanne de Mohrenschildt two or three times a year.

In January 1976 he learned that de Mohrenschildt was preparing a book. By June the book was completed, but Jeanne de Mohrenschildt told Oltmans she was upset when she read it. She told her husband he would go to jail if it was published because it was about the assassination of Kennedy and mentioned names of CIA and FBI agents throughout.

Last November, Oltmans went to Dallas and was told by the wife that de Mohrenschildt had been in a hospital for several months. Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt's lawyer, Pat S. Russell, said he was in a mental hospital suffering from a persecution complex and undergoing shock treatment. Russell is said to possess the book manuscript.

Oltmans says he returned to Dallas on Feb. 23, 1977, and had lunch with de Mohrenschildt, who was back at work. The Dutch journalist said this ex-

change took place:

De Mohrenschildt: "How would it hit the media if I came out and said I felt responsible for Oswald's behavior?"

Oltmans: "You mean what Oswald did? Shot or not shot, he was involved in the shooting. You have links here to the shooting of the President of the United States."

De Mohrenschildt: "I realize that and I don't want to incriminate myself directly. But I am convinced that what Oswald finally set up we completely agreed upon."

Oltmans: "But you were in Haiti on the day of the assassination."

De Mohrenschildt: "Yes."

Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt "was a guy very cleverly saying, 'I knew exactly what Oswald was going to do and I have proof of it.'"

Oltmans said he asked de Mohrenschildt if he was ready to make a statement. He said the professor replied, "Yes, but never in America. I am being followed. I find my house all the time searched. So I am scared to death. I first must get out of the country."

Oltmans said he called his Dutch television superior and was told to bring de Mohrenschildt to Holland. As Oltmans tells it, de Mohrenschildt had several changes of mind but finally agreed. They arrived in Amsterdam on March 3. The talked with Dutch television and publishing executives.

On March 5, Oltmans says, he and de Mohrenschildt drove to Brussels to meet Oltmans's friend, a Soviet diplo-

mat. The three chatted at the newsstand of the Hotel Metropole and de Mohrenschildt said he would go for a walk before lunch. "He never returned from that walk," said Oltmans. He says de Mohrenschildt's disappearance was reported to the U.S. Embassy in the Hague, but there is no record that the report was relayed to the State Department.

Oltmans said he got a call from a man in Brussels who said de Mohrenschildt had departed for the United States.

The NBC radio network reported today Oltmans was prepared to tell the Assassinations Committee that Oswald was hired by a conspiracy of Dallas oilmen and anti-Castro Cubans to kill Kennedy.

NBC also quoted Oltmans as saying that de Mohrenschildt was "also a conspirator," and committed suicide rather than "face being exposed as responsible for the assassination."

Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt told him in Europe: "Look I'll be discharged at Bishop College in June. 'I'm 65. My wife ran away. (They reportedly became divorced.) I'm at the end of the line.' And one day he came into my room and said, 'let's face it. I only made up the story (about Oswald) because everybody makes a million dollars off the Kennedy assassination, and I haven't made anything. So now it's my time. So now you and I know that.'"

The Warren Commission took testimony from de Mohrenschildt and concluded that he did not have any connection with Kennedy's death.