

The FBI, the CIA and a Man Named Oswald

By Ernest Volkman

New York

LOCKED IN two government safes in Washington are 80,396 pages that probably will serve as the last chapters in one of the great mysteries of modern times.

The solution to the mystery will not be found in any of those chapters. Indeed, according to those who have seen most of the documents, they may deepen it.

The documents are 80,000 pages of the FBI's files on its investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy 14 years ago, and 396 pages on the CIA's investigation. The FBI has agreed to make its files public — with "security deletions" — while the CIA is fighting in court to block public release of its files.

The mystery centers not so much on the assassination, but on the man a U.S. Government inquiry ruled was responsible, Lee Harvey Oswald. Added to the mountain of material that has been written about Oswald, the 80,396 pages will cap what may be history's most painstaking investigation of a man's life.

Yet the mystery persists, because his death in a Dallas police station removed the best possible clue to the mystery of Oswald — his mind.

There has been a revival of interest in the Oswald mystery. In addition to a television program speculating on what Oswald might have said during his trial, Oswald's wife, Marina, has co-authored a book on her life with him.

The allegation by Marita

Lorenz, Fidel Castro's former mistress, that she and Frank Sturgis, who was a Watergate burglar later, spent time with Oswald, has received considerable publicity, although Sturgis denies it.

And in a work widely discussed among private groups investigating the Kennedy assassination, a British investigator says flatly that the Oswald arrested in Dallas was a Soviet KGB agent acting as a "double." The assertion by British lawyer Michael Eddowes, is dismissed as "junk" by government investigators.

Mrs. Oswald has a lot to say about her husband, but aside from the allegations that he once planned to kill Richard

Did Oswald really kill Kennedy?

Nixon, and that his sex life was a failure, there is not much light shed on the mystery of Oswald.

The Oswald mystery is composed of several others. Among the most important:

- Did Oswald really kill Kennedy? That remains the central question, and despite government claims of a solid circumstantial case against Oswald, opinion polls continue to show that most of the American public doesn't buy the verdict.

The problem, essentially, is lack of motive. Why would

Oswald want to kill Kennedy, particularly since he was not known to harbor any deep grudge against the President? If Oswald did kill Kennedy, why did he do it in a way seemingly designed to guarantee his getting caught?

- Why did he go to the Soviet Union? Oswald enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1956, and although he professed some mildly Marxist sympathies, never expressed any desire to live in the Soviet Union. Yet upon his discharge in 1959 Oswald went to the Soviet



UPI photo

OSWALD

Union and renounced his American citizenship. Why? Nobody knows for sure, and Oswald said only that he was taking the step "for political reasons."

- What happened while he was in the Soviet Union? Almost nothing is known, at least by Americans, of exactly what Oswald did during his two years in the Soviet Union. An exception was his romance with a young woman, Marina

Frusakov.

But that, too, is mysterious: Marina married Oswald and returned with him to the United States, although she belonged to a Communist organization. It also is not clear why Oswald wanted to come back. Further, the Oswalds had little trouble emigrating to the United States, even though Marina's uncle was a colonel in the KGB whose duties including keeping track of American defectors in the Soviet Union.

- What about the General Walker episode? On the night of April 10, 1962, somebody fired a shot at retired Army Gen. Edwin Walker. During the Warren commission investigation Marina said her husband did it. But if so, it doesn't make sense.

She claimed that Oswald left in their house detailed plans for the shooting, including photographs of Walker's home. Why would Oswald leave incriminating evidence of that sort lying around his house? And if he did try to kill the ultraconservative Walker, why?

- What about the Cuban connection? In May, 1963, Oswald joined the left-wing Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Why? He never had discussed the Cuba-U.S. controversy publicly, but several months later he was arrested for scuffling with anti-Castro Cuban exiles while he was handing out pro-Castro literature on a New Orleans street corner.

Even more strangely, while in custody he had asked to talk with the FBI, which began a relationship with Oswald that never has been fully explained.

Newsday