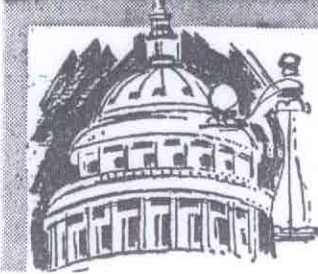


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## WASHINGTON REPORT

# A Mystery Man in The Warren Probe

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

*Editor's Note: The following views are those of the authors and are presented here to give readers a variety of viewpoints. The Tribune's opinions are expressed only in editorials.*

One of the most curious pieces of information uncovered by the Warren Commission during its investigation of President Kennedy's assassination was an extraordinary statement volunteered by a Russian.

This "Mr. X," seemingly nervous and uneasy, appeared unexpectedly at the U.S. embassy in Moscow some six months after the Dallas murder. To embassy officials he claimed to have known Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife Marina when they lived in the Soviet.

In penciled notes the Russian left at the embassy, now among the more than 20,000 "working papers" given the National Archives by the Warren Commission, Oswald is linked to Jack Ruby, his slayer, and the KGB, Soviet secret police.

These remarkable notes and covering correspondence, and an analysis by embassy officials, were extensively censored by the State Department with the Warren Commission's approval.

The name of the mysterious Russian, described in the State Department correspondence as "a relatively pleasant looking man," was deleted as well as that of the embassy official who talked to him.

Also omitted was the date of the interview. The only reference to time is a notation in the State Department's "memorandum of con-

versation" that it took place in the "summer of 1964."

The Warren Commission attempted to get at the bottom of the Russian's strange story. Both the FBI and CIA dug into the matter, but with no success. The probers were unable to either confirm or disprove this perplexing information.

However, among the commission's records in the National Archives is an FBI report that Oswald corresponded with a KGB official in the Soviet embassy in Washington after returning to the U.S.

Also in the commission's records is a CIA document stating that the Soviet diplomat in Mexico City with whom Oswald had a meeting shortly before the assassination was the top KGB official in the embassy there.

All the documents relating to this bizarre affair are in a separate commission file designated "Mr. X's File, No. 3106."

The "Mr. X" file also includes a short memorandum by a Warren Commission staff member stating that Senator Richard Russell, D-Ga., one of the investigators, had read all of these documents.

Russell has made no secret that he feels Oswald's wife did not tell the commission all she knows about his activities and associations both in Russia and in the U.S. Russell has said he feels she should have been more vigorously grilled. During the inquiry he asked the State Department and CIA to seek more data on Oswald's stay in Russia.

There is no indication in the commission's records that it interrogated the U.S. official who conferred with the mys-

terious Russian in the Moscow embassy. Also no explanation for this omission.

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Governor Nelson Rockefeller will be prominently in the 1968 presidential picture — his disclaimers notwithstanding. GOP insiders have long known that the New Yorker never completely dismantled his 1964 campaign organization, and in the few weeks since his smashing third-term election, there have been backstage indications of new signs of life in the headquarters . . . President Johnson will offer Governor William Scranton, who leaves office in January, a high post — in the Cabinet as successor to Commerce Secretary John Connor, who is planning to depart, or to replace Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge when he leaves Saigon by spring. Whether Scranton will accept a Johnson offer is conjectural. Already GOP leaders have urged him to decline.

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