

Warren Testimony

WEIRD

OSWALD

SECRET

A New Secret on Oswald

New York Times

Washington

A colorful, Russian-born socialite and business promoter has emerged, as the result of several extraordinary coincidences, as the only known link between the lives of the family of President Kennedy and of his assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Testimony by George S. de Mohrenschildt before the Warren Commission brought out that he knew Jacqueline Kennedy as a little girl on Long Island

in 1938, remained her mother's friend over the ensuing years and became a friend and protector of Lee Oswald and his wife in Texas 24 years later.

Another strange touch of coincidence was that about the time he met the Oswalds in 1962, Mrs. Kennedy had agreed to become the honorary chairman of a foundation to combat cystic fibrosis that de Mohrenschildt established in memory of his late son.

PROBE

The report of the Warren Commission, published last September 27, said that "extensive investigation had been conducted into the background" of de Mohrenschildt and his present wife, who is also Russian-born.

However, it said that "the Commission's investigation has developed no signs of subversive or disloyal conduct on the part of either of

the de Mohrenschildts" and that "neither the FBI, Central Intelligence Agency, nor any witness contacted by the Commission has provided any information linking the de Mohrenschildts to subversive or extremist organizations."

"Nor has there been any evidence linking them in any way with the assassination of President Kennedy," the report said.

FBI

In testimony, de Mohrenschildt acknowledged that during World War II he had worked in the U.S. "on behalf of the French intelligence," though he denied that he had been illegally sketching Coast Guard installations in Texas during that time. The Commission's counsel told him that this incident had given him trouble with the FBI.

Though the commission's

report made no reference to the coincidence of de Mohrenschildt's association with Mrs. Kennedy's mother and later with the Oswalds, its interest in the 53-year-old oilman and promoter was shown in the fact that 118 pages of testimony in the hearings released yesterday dealt with his interrogation, and 46 pages with the questioning of his wife. This is one of the longest sections of individual testimony appearing in the 26 volumes of the hearings.

MEETING

De Mohrenschildt testified that he had met Mrs. John V. Bouvier III at Belpport, Long Island, shortly after his arrival in the U. S. in 1938, when he worked as a perfume salesman in New York.

"Mrs. Bouvier is Jacqueline Kennedy's mother, also her father and her whole family," he testified. "She was in the process of getting a divorce from her husband. I met him also. We were

very close friends. We saw each other every day. I met Jackie, then, when she was a little girl. We were also very close friends of Jack Bouvier's sister, and his father."

De Mohrenschildt told the commission that his friendship with Mrs. Kennedy's mother — now known as Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss — "more or less remained, because we still see each other, occasionally."

LETTER

Exhibits appended to the commission's hearings show that following Mr. Kennedy's assassination, de Mohrenschildt had written Mrs. Auchincloss deploring the event and, himself, pointing to the strange coincidence of having known both Mrs. Kennedy and her husband's assassin.

HAITI

The letter was written on Dec. 12, 1963, from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where de Mohrenschildt now lives in connection with a series of business ventures in which he is associated with the government of President Francois Duvalier.

He asked Mrs. Auchincloss to express "my deepest sympathy to your daughter and tell her that both my brother and I will always remember her as a charming little girl from East Hampton."

"Since we lived in Dallas permanently last year and before," he wrote, "we had the misfortune to have met Oswald and especially his wife Marina sometime last fall. Both my wife and I tried to help poor Marina who could not speak any English, was mistreated by her husband, she and the baby were malnourished and sickly. We took them to the hospital."

"...I was just sitting in my office thinking of the strange fate which made me know Jackie when she was a little girl — and which made me also know the assassin (or presumed assassin), his wife and child," he wrote.

REPLY

Mrs. Auchincloss replied, thanking him for his letter, and remarking that, "it seems extraordinary to me that you knew Oswald and that you knew Jackie as a child. It is certainly a very strange world."

De Mohrenschildt testified that after he and his wife had befriended the Oswalds in Dallas, he once told Oswald that "I met Mrs. Kennedy when she was a child, you know, that she was a very strong-willed child, very intelligent and very attractive child you see, and a very attractive family, and I thought that Kennedy was doing a very good job with regard to the racial problem, you know."

"And he also agreed with me," de Mohrenschildt testified. "Yes, yes, yes; I think it is an excellent president, young, full of energy, full of good ideas."

De Mohrenschildt's testimony showed that the Oswalds became his friends and of other Russian-born families in Dallas, after their arrival in Texas, even though they were socially and economically below that group. He said that the Russian community there was always interested in new people of Russian background.