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7 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

104-10103-10149

SUBJECT : Comments on George de Mohrenschildt "Reputed Former CIA Agent"

REFERENCE: Memo for the Record, dated 4 April 1977

1. In a UPI article (see Tab A) published in the Washington Star of 4 April 1977, George de Mohrenschildt is referred to as a "reputed former CIA agent." This remark is a misinterpretation of the facts by the writer of the article. A review of the de Mohrenschildt file reveals that de Mohrenschildt had provided information, in December 1957, to a CIA representative in Dallas, Texas, in response to the latter's request, on his trip to Yugoslavia in 1957 on behalf of the International Cooperation Agency (ICA). This action does not make de Mohrenschildt a "CIA agent," rather, it makes him an unpaid informant.

The circumstances pertaining to CIA's interest in de Mohrenschildt's knowledge of conditions in Yugoslavia are set forth in the following paragraphs.

2. On 3 June 1964, the Agency forwarded to J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel, President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, the following information on George de Mohrenschildt.

"1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 31 March 1964 requesting any information on George and Jeanne de Mohrenschildt that is available to CIA files. Our review shows that the files contain reports received from other U.S. Government agencies, primarily the FBI, as well as some information developed by this Agency in 1957 and 1958. The review also produced references to information and the Office of Strategic Services. According to the records of those agencies, George de Mohrenschildt had been considered for employment in 1942, but was not hired because he was alleged to be a Nazi espionage agent. No information developed by CIA or its predecessors

> RETURN TO CIA Background Use Only Do Not Reproduce

before the assassination of President Kennedy had established any link between de Mohrenschildt and Lee Harvey Oswald and his family.

"2. CIA's initial interest in George de Mohrenschildt developed as a result of his sojourn in Yugoslavia in 1957 on behalf of the International Cooperation Agency (ICA). In that connection CIA headquarters sent a routine advisory to its Dallas representative who called on the de Mohrenschildt's in the early part of December 1957. In the course of several meetings the CIA representative obtained foreign intelligence which was promptly disseminated to other federal agencies in ten separate reports. The Dallas representative continued informal, occasional contact with the de Mohrenschildt's until the autumn of 1961. He has not seen them since that time, although he received a Christmas card from them during the holiday period following the assassination.

"3. On the 23rd or 24th of November 1963, after the assassination, our representative in Dallas received a telephone call from one of his contacts who told him that several members of his firm had attended a social or a discussion group in January 1963 and that Lee Harvey Oswald had also been there. Our representative immediately arranged for the FBI to contact the executive. It was later ascertained from the FBI, and from one of our sources, that George de Mohrenschildt was present at the meeting and had introduced Oswald to the group.

"4. At CIA headquarters the association between the de Mohrenschildt's and the Oswald's was noted for the first time in December 1963 when it was reported from Haiti that the de Mohrenschildt's had appeared at the Embassy and volunteered information about their relationship with the Oswald's. At about the same time the details of their association began to appear in reports made by other U.S. Government agencies engaged in investigating the assassination.

"5. During the contact with George de Mohrenschildt late in 1957 and 1958, his background was investigated. Inquiries produced a considerable amount of information about him and his activities, including allegations that during World War II he had engaged in espionage activities on behalf of the Nazis; that he was a member of the Communist Party; and that after the war he was sympathetic toward Communism and the U.S.S.R. The investigation was extended to Belgium where George de Mohrenschildt claimed to have lived from 1930 until 1938. His educational background and his work as a journalist were confirmed there. One record of arrest came to light: on 4 November 1931 he was sentenced by the <u>Tribunal Correctionnel</u> at Antwerp to eight days in prison on charges of resisting a police officer and to eight days imprisonment or a fine of 132 francs on charges of drunkenness and use of a false name. Sentence was suspended pening completion of a three-year probationary period.

"6. Throughout his adult life, George de Mohrenschildt has used variations of his basic name, including such variants as Jerry de Mohrenschildt; Jerzey von Mohrenschildt; George von Mohrenschild; and George Sergius de Mohrenschild. In like manner he also seems to have varied his former ethnic origin from Russian, to Polish, Swedish, Danish, and German. There appear to be two versions of his mother's maiden name: Alexandra Latoskey and Alexandra Zapolski.

"7. FBI Special Agent James F. Morrissey came to CIA on 19 March 1964 and reviewed this Agency's files on the de Mohrenschildt's.

"8. On 17 March 1964 the FBI furnished to this Agency a report dated 28 February 1964. The report provides details about one Yuri (George) de Mohrenschild's contact with Fedor Alekseevich Garanin, who was a Soviet diplomat in Washington, D.C., in 1946. In that report Yuri (George) de Mohrenschild was described as a petroleum engineer who had worked in the Texas oil fields and in Venezuela. Concerning Garanin, our records show that he has been a member of the Soviet State Security Service probably since the mid-1940's. He served in Cuba in 1943; after World War II he also served in the U.S., Hungary, and Finland. According to our records, the information about Garanin and his association with the Soviet State Security Service has also been known to the FBI.

"9. You may also wish to make inquiries at the Office of Naval Intelligence; the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Army; the Department of State;—and the Civil Service Commission because these departments also have information about George de Mohrenschildt."

(Comment: This document was released under the FOI Act with portions deleted. The deleted portions include information which was received from a foreign liaison service as well as information which might tend to identify an Agency source, information which originated with the FBI which the FBI will discuss directly with the requester, information identifying an FBI special agent, information identifying Agency components, as well as information relating to Agency internal filing instructions. The deletions were made under the authority of exemptions (b) (1), (b) (2), (b) (3), and (b) (7) (F). See copy under Tab B.)

As indicated above, the Agency was interested in 3. obtaining reports from de Mohrenschildt in 1957 relating to his trip to Yugoslavia on behalf of the International Cooperation Agency (ICA). Contact Division (now Domestic Collection Division - DCD) had its representative in Dallas, J. Walton Moore, contact de Mohrenschildt. The history of Moore's relationship with de Mohrenschildt from 1957 to 1961 is attached under Tab C. In his testimony taken on 23 April 1964 at 200 Maryland Avenue NE, Washington, D.C., by Mr. Albert E. Jenner, Jr., assistant counsel of the President's Commission. de Mohrenschildt described his contact with Walter Moore, whom he referred to as G. Walter Moore [sic - J. Walton Moore]. De Mohrenschildt's statement concerning Moore is contained on page 235 of Volume IX of the Hearings before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. A copy of page 235 is attached under Tab D.

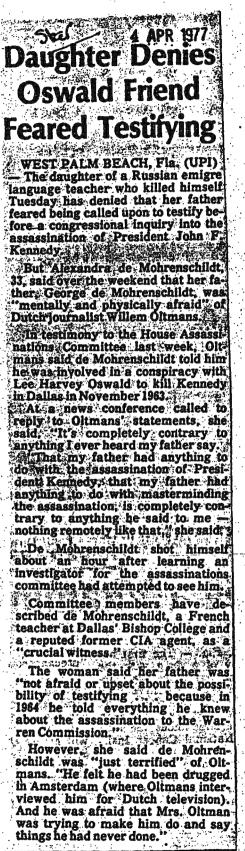
4. As a routine action, Moore requested traces on de Mohrenschildt. The traces (see Tab E) contained sufficient derogatory information to preclude further extensive contact with the de Mohrenschildt's. A summary of information on de Mohrenschildt from the Office of Security appears under Tab F.

5. Conclusion: George de Mohrenschildt was never a "recruited agent" of the Central Intelligence Agency. For approximately four years (1957 - 1961), a representative of the Agency had had a periodic contact with de Mohrenschildt for the purpose of obtaining overt information which the latter obtained during his travels abroad. These contacts were not clandestine nor did such contacts involve the clandestine procurement of secret foreign intelligence. So far as the Agency knows, de Mohrenschildt provided information in response to Moore's request as a patriotic gesture, without thought of monetary gain.

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Russell B. Holmes

cc: IG SA/DO/O



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iemorandum for :

Mr. J Les Raskin General Coursel President's Commission on the Azzastizzlica of President Kazady Report ON George and Jeanne De MCHRENSCHILDT

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TAB B

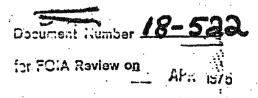
WORRAN COMMISSION

SUBIZCT

Sent 1. Reference is made to your memorandem of 31 March 1964 requesting any information on Goorge and Jeanse Da MOHREMSCHILDT that is available in CIA files. Our review shows that the files contain reports received from other U.S. Government agencies, primarily the FBL as well as some information developed by this Agency in 1957 and 1959. The review also produced references to information in the records of the Cyprelinator of Information and the Office of Strategic Services. According to the records of those agencies, George De MOHRENSCHILDT had been considered for employment in 1742. but was not hired because he was alloged to be a Nazi espionage agent. No information developed by CIA (or its predecessors) before the assassination of President Kennedy had established any link between the De MCHRENSCHILDTs and Les Harvey OSWALD or his family.

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Distribution:

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Orig. & 1 - Addressee

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(1973) East For Richard Holms Deputy Director for Plans

ATTN	Acting Chief, Contact Divis : Support	sion (Direct)	May 64
REF :	Dallas Resident Agency New Case 43259 Headquarters Memo 20 Apr 64	MICROFILMED APR 7 1969 DOC. MICRO. SER.	M
	tails of J. Walter M renschildt from 195-		

SFRE

1. I have known-George de Mohrenschildt and his wife since 1957. My latest actual contact with them was in the fall of 1961, although I received a Christmas card from them during Christmas of 1963. The card mailed from Port-au-Prince and a copy of my acknowledgement is attached. $\Delta Duncanville, Texas USA occ-businessm$

2. After our late President's assassination, either on the 23d. pr 24th of November 1963, I received a telephone call from(Dr.) Paul Reichertz, Director of the Socony Mobil Research Laboratory at Duncanville, Texas. Dr. Reichertz advised that members of his staff had attended some kind of social or discussion group in January 1963 at which Lee Harvey Oswald was present. No mention was made at this time of George de Mohrenschildt. I told Dr. Reichertz he should report this information to the local office of the PBI and he replied that he knew no one in the Ballas office of the FBI and asked if I would pass the information along for him. I called the FBI and they said they would send somebody out to talk to Dr. Reichertz. I made no effort to follow up on the matter with Faul Reichertz since I felt it was none of my business but during a visit the Librarian at Socony Mobil Research Lab and a <u>zíth</u> good contact of sine for many years, she advised that she had heard that de Mohrenschildt had befriended Oswald after his arrival in Dalla⁸ and had introduced him to a study group on the USSR. CIT-USA Texas USA

<u>A Duncanville (exas USA</u> 3. By initial contact with de Mohrenschildt was the result of a source lead from headquarters, dated 22 Nov 57, advising that George de Mohrenschildt had recently returned to Dallas after spending approximately a year in Yugoslavia on a job for the ICA. I called on de Mohrenschildt in early December 1957 and submitted a name check, dated 6 Dec 57. At that time, de MohrensChildt gave me a copy of standard personal history form 57, which gives considerable biographic data, which I am enclosing.

Lee H. OSWALD (201-289248) sontains record-hand knowledge of Dr. Paul REICHERTZ both of Soccy Mobil on Subj. 201-725439 attackments HIW NSM (employer and) SECRET Ort* HIW f term automa 1 1 1 2 1 3 1 HW (NSM - too lange

At this time I saw and met Mrs. Jan de Mohrenschildt, a white Russian emigree from Shanghai. I saw the de Mohrenschildt's several times in 1958 and 1959. In late 1959 or early 1960, Mr. and Mrs. de Mohrenschildt went on an 18 sonth hiking trip through Mexico and Central America. An account of this trip, as taken from the 18 Oct 61 issue of the Dallas Times Herald, is enclosed.

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4. In the way of a personal assessment, I would say that the de Mohrenschildt's are an interesting and unusual couple. This is, I believe, the second marriage for both of them. Mrs. de Mohrenschildt, who has been a successful dress designer, has a grown, married daughter, who is quite a fine artist. George de Mohrenschildt has several children by his first wife (reportedly a very wealthy woman now living in the Middle East). One of his children died of cystic fibrosis and George de Mohrenschildt has always been very active in the yearly cystic fibrosis fund raising campaiga.

5. George de Mohrenschildt makes a good appearance. He is about six feet tall and weighs around 190 pounds. For a man his age, approximately 53, he keeps bimself in good condition and is a bit of a physical fitness mut. He is a moderate drinker and when I last saw him, smoked a pipe. I would describe his personality as friendly and outgoing although I have heard him referred to as conceited. He reputedly has an eye for the ladies and I understand his interest does not go unreciprocated. He leads a scnewhat unconventional life, plays tennis at 5 o'clock in the morning, he is rether outspoken, has a keen interest in international affairs and in social justice. By local conservative standards, he would be considered a liberal. His outlook on life is continental.

6. De Mohrenschildt is fairly well known in petroleum circles bin Dallas. I only know of one good friend of his. This is (Col.) Lawrence Orlow (Retired) who is in the oil leasing business. The colonel and I both play handball. He mentioned the last time I saw him that de Mohrenschildt wanted him to come to Haiti to help him run a plantation and organize a company there. I believe that the de Mohrenschildt's left for Haiti in about February of 1963 but I am very vague on this point. If there is any additional information I can furnish, please let me know.

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DEMOHRENSCHILDT (201-725439)

J. WALTON MCORE

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Enclosures as stated above Mr. JENNER. Well, this is September of 1962.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. 1962, sure. They were out of my mind. I forgot the Aswalds.

Mr. JENNER. No; 1962, sir.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. No, no. Now the Oswalds were out of my mind.

Mr. JENNER. You mean you have not been thinking about them.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Yes; I have not been thinking about them.

May I say a few things here that I remember? As I told you before, we met the Oswalds through Bonhe, and then we talked about them to Max Clark, and again to Bouhe. And I asked Mr. Bouhe "Do you think it is safe for us to help Oswald?"

Mr. JENNER. You did have that conversation.

Mr. DE MOHRENSOHILDT. Yes.

Mr. JENNEB. Why did you raise that question?

JIT. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. I raised the question because he had been to Soviet Russia. He could be anything, you see. And he could be right there watched day and night by the FBI. I did not want to get involved, you see. And I distinctly remember, No. 1, that George Bouhe said that he had checked with the FBI. Secondly, that in my mind Max Clark was in some way connected with the FBI, because he was chief of security at Convair—he had been a chief of security. And either George Bouhe or someone else told me that he is with the FBI to some extent. You never ask people "Are you from the FBI?" And to me it is unimportant. But somehow in my mind I had this connected. And so my fears were alleviated, you see. I said, "Well, the guy seems to be OK." Now, I am not so clear about it, but I have the impression to have talked—to hare asked about Lee Oswald also Mr. Moore, Walter Moore.

Mr. JENNER. Who is Walter Moore?

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Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Walter Moore is the man who interviewed me on behalf of the Government after I came back from Yugoslavia—G. Walter Moore. He is a Government man—either FBI or Central Intelligence. A very nice fellow, exceedingly intelligent who is, as far as I know—was some sort of an FBI man in Dallas. Many people consider him head of FBI in Dallas. Now, I don't know. Who does—you see. But he is a Government man in some capacity. He interviewed me and took my deposition on my stay in Yugoslavia, what I thought about the political situation there. And we became quite friendly after that. We saw each other from time to time, had lunch. There was a mutual interest there, because I think he was born in China and my wife was born in China. They had been to our house I think once or twice. I fust found him a very interesting person. When I was writing this book of mine, a very peculiar incldent occurred.

Mr. JENNER. Which book?

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. The last one—the travelogue. One day we left for Houston on a business trip, and I left all my typewritten pages, some 150 typewritten pages, in my closet. When I returned from the trip and started looking through the pages, which had not been touched, supposedly, by anybody I noticed small marks on the pages.—"No. 1" after five pages, "2"—small marks with a pencil, another five pages, No. 8, and so on and so forth.

I told my wife "Jeanne, have you fiddled around with my book?" She said, "Of course not." I said, "That's impossible." And I forgot it for a while.

In the evening we got back home, and we stayed in bed, and all of a sudden the idea came back to me that somebody must have been in my apartment and checked my book and read through that and took photographs. And it was such a horrible idea that Jeanne and I just could not sleep all night. And the next morning we both of us went to see Walter Moore and told him, "Now, look what happened to us. Have you Government people"—and I think I asked him point blank, you know—"Have you FBI people looked through my book?" He said, "Do you consider us such fools as to leave marks on your book if we had? But we haven't." I said, "Can't you give me some protection against somebody who has?" He said, "Do you have any strong enemies?" I said, "Well, I Possibly have. Everybody has enemies." But I never could figure out who it was. And it is still a mystery to me.

So I am not so sure whether I asked point blank Clark or Walter Moore

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about Oswald. I probably spoke to both of them about him. My recollection is, and also my wife's recollection is, that either of them said he is a harmless lunatic. Later on Max got disgusted with him and said that he is a no-good b-----d, a traitor, and so on and so forth. But by that time we already forgot Oswald—got Oswald out of your lives, you see. This is one point.

The second point is as you can see the whole of the Russian colony in Dallas were interested in Oswald one way or the other, because they represented somebody who had been to their old country just recently, and could give them the latest information on what was going on. As I said, the old guard were naturally against them right away. The others were just curious. But this particular couple, Natasha and Igor Voshinin, refused to see them. And I insisted several times, "Why don't you see them? You love all the Russians. Why don't you meet Marina Oswald?" And she said, "We don't want to, and we have our reasons for not meeting them." And it kept on in my mind. I did not want to raise that question. But why didn't they want to meet them?

Mr. JENNER. Well, tell me what is your speculation as to why they did not want to meet them?

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. I do not have the slightest idea. Maybe they knew something about Oswald, of some connection.

Mr. JENNER. Or maybe they were alarmed, and didn't want to take any chances.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Maybe just that.

Mr. JENNER. But they were pretty firm in not having any traffic with them. Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Absolutely firm. The only ones. Maybe they were just more recently arrived in the United States and they were not so secure like we were, you see. And possibly they were just alarmed of meeting somebody who just came from Soviet Russia.

Mr. JENNER. I think I will ask you at this point, Mr. De Mohrenschildt, you are a man of very superior education and extremely wide experience and acquaintance here and in Europe, South America, West Indies—you have lived an extremely colorful life. You are acquainted to a greater or lesser degree with a great variety of people.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT, Yes.

Mr. JENNER. Did there go through your mind speculations as to whether Oswald was an agent of anybody?

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. NO.

Mr. JENNER. Why? Before I put it that way—when you say "No," am I correct in assuming that you thought about the subject and you concluded he was not an agent of anybody? Is that what you meant?

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. I never thought even about it. I will tell you why I thought he never was—because he was too outspoken. He was too outspoken in his ideas and his attitudes. If he were really—if he were an agent, I thought he would have kept quiet. This would be my idea.

Mr. JENNER. You say he was outspoken. What do you base that on?

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. For instance, he showed me his—he discussed very freely with me, when he showed me his little memoirs.

Mr. JENNEB. I am going to show you those papers in a little while.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Those memoirs I think are very sincere. They explain more or less the sincere attitude of a man, sincere opinion of a man.

Mr. JENNER. Before I show you any papers, I want you to finish this reasoning of yours.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. I did not take him seriously-that is all,

Mr. JENNER. I know you didn't. Why didn't you?

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Well-

Mr. JENNER. You are a highly sophisticated person.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Well, he was not sophisticated, you see. He was a semieducated hillbilly. And you cannot take such a person seriously. All his opinions were crude, you see. But I thought at the time he was rather sincere.

Mr. JENNER. Opinion sincerely held, but crude?

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Yes.

Mr. JENNER. He was relatively uneducated.

Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. Oh, yes.

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TAB E (Yhen Filled In DATE **INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM** FROM: Chief, Personnel Security Division, 'OS F, Contact Division, 00 de MCHPENSCHILDT, George A - 6823/ AKA: von NCHRENSCHILDT, George Sergius #775de MCHPENSCHILLT, George Reference is made to your request for a security clearance on the subject as a potential source of intelligence information. The necessary checks have leted with the following results: a. No additional information has been obtained, except for such biographic information as indicated below or in the attachment. and a state of a state • . b. [] Information has been received that Subject was investigated with favorable results in c. X Certain information has been received and appears in the attachment which your Division will wish to consider in determining the extent and level of your use of Subject. . It is to be noted that our checks were made on the basis of the identifying ion you furnished or in an attachment to this memorandum. Should it be disthat this information is erroneous or that Subject is known by a different name, vision should be notified immediately. W. M. Knott 7 Chief, Personnel Security Division cc mit DISAPPROVED-I THIS CATEGORY IS ASSIGNED BY INDEX FOR HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY. THE FIELD CHIEF DETERMINES LEVEL a ser is CLASSIFIED DISCLOSURE also The EYES GERY #1622 EVES ONLY 1124 CONFIDENTIAL

Subject was investigated by Federal Agencies in 1941, 1942, 1945, 1947, and 1957. The investigation reports as well as the files of other Federal Agencies reflect the following:

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Between 1940 and 1942 Subject was considered to be pro-German and suspected of being a German propagandist and an espionage agent.

Several informants stated that Subject was in sympathy with the Communist form of government in Russia but knew of no un-American activities on the part of Subject. One informant advised in 1947 that Subject had definite Communistic tendencies.

Investigations failed to produce any legal competent evidence or witnesses to substantiate the reports that Subject had been pro-Communist or pro-Nazi.

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Najority of informants consider Subject to be eccentric, irresponsible, conceited, an adventurer fond of exaggeration, and overly aggressive.

Subject has been known to associate with persons of questionable loyalty, reputation, and moral character.

Subject, when interviewed, admitted that he tends to exaggerate and advised that he thought the Communist form of government of Soviet Russia was the better form of government on the European continent, and that he had a great admiration for the Communistic form of government, but that that did not prevent him from having a stronger feeling of loyalty to the government of the United States.

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George DE MOHRENSCHILDT

From the Office of Security

CIA CONNECTION:

DE MOHRENSCHILDT was security disapproved for OSS employment on 18 July 1942 because he was suspected of being a Nazi agent. On 13 August 1958 derogatory information was furnished the Contact Office who was interested in interrogating him as an alien contact. His second wife, Phyllis whom he married on 11 July 1948.and divorced 29 December 1949, was employed as a receptionist by a covert project (NCFE) from 1950 to 12 January 1951 when her employment was terminated. (Reason not given.)

TAB

Subject's brother, Dimitri S. VON MOHRENSCHILDT, was approved on 11 April 1950 for exploitation as a contact/for foreign intelligence purposes on a limited basis; not to receive classified information above confidential.

OS INDICES RESULTS:

OS Files on Subject, his second wife, and his brother reflect use by the Agency as set out above. Subject was investigated by the FBI in 1941, 1942, 1945, 1947 and 1957. Between 1940 and 1942 Subject was considered to be pro-German and suspected of being a German propagandist and an espionage agent. Several informants stated that Subject was in sympathy with the Communist form of government in Russia but knew of no un-American activities on the part of Subject. One informant advised in 1947 that Subject had definite Communistic tendencies. However, investigations failed to produce any legal competent evidence or witnesses to substantiate the reports that Subject had been pro-Communist or pro-Nazi. The majority of informants consider Subject to be eccentric, irresponsible, conceited, an adventurer fond of exaggeration and overly aggressive. He has been known to associate with persons of questionable loyalty, reputation and moral character. Subject has admitted that he tends to exaggerate and stated that he thought the Communist form of government of Soviet Russia was the better form of government on the European

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continent; that he had a great admiration for the Communist form of government but that this admiration did not prevent him from having a stronger feeling of loyalty to the government of the United States.

A New York Times item for 12 December 1966 mentioned that George DE MOHRENSCHILDT has been acquainted with Jacqueline KENNEDY's father, John BOUVIER, and mother, Mrs. Hugh AUCHIN-CLOSS, since Mrs. KENNEDY was a girl. The DE MOHRENSCHILDT's were quoted as saying they were perhaps the only persons in the world to have known the families of both President KENNEDY and OSWALD.

SECIET