

# CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

## RELEASE IN FULL

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

### Memorandum



DAL-31-77

TO : Chief, Domestic Collection Division  
ATTN : Deputy Chief, Operations (Ed Watts)

DATE: 1 April 1977

FROM : Chief, Dallas Office

NEW

A# 203929

SUBJECT: Call from Dan Watson of Dallas Morning News re George de Mohrenschildt/Clippings from Dallas Times Herald and Dallas Morning News

A-68221 (DECEASED)

A173345

1. Dan Watson, reporter from the Dallas Morning News, called on 31 March 1977 and wanted to discuss our relationship with George de Mohrenschildt. I told him this was documented in the Warren Commission Report and I had nothing further to add. Watson then advised that Dallas was overrun with out of town reporters looking for a story on De Mohrenschildt and asked me if the name Robert Morris meant anything to me. He promised our conversation would be off the record and I then told him the only Robert Morris I knew of in the Dallas area was the Robert Morris who had been chief counsel on Joseph McCarthy's Senate investigative committee on un-American activities, and who was the former president of Plano University. (Plano is a suburb of Dallas.) I told Watson I had never met Robert Morris. He said this was the Robert Morris he was talking about, that he understood Morris was supposed to have had some connection with the CIA in Taiwan. He said Morris was reported to have autographed a book to J. Moore but could furnish no details. He did not explain how Morris was supposed to have been involved with either Lee Harvey Oswald or George de Mohrenschildt.

2. A search of the files of the Dallas Field Office produced a Weekly Activity Report (WAR) by Major Charles Fiver stating he had called on Dr. Robert Morris, Chancellor of the University of Plano on 30 November 1973. His comments on the WAR are as follows: "Met Morris. Has info on sea oil but he is too tied up in politics to give straight answers. Very conservative. Will try one more visit." (No further visit is listed.)

3. As you can see from the attached clippings De Mohrenschildt's death is getting a lot of play in the local press. So far my name hasn't surfaced but it may be just a matter of time before my association with De Mohrenschildt comes out.

J. Walton Moore  
J. WALTON MOORE

JW Moore/slm

Attachment: As stated

E2 IMPDET CL BY 003820

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~WARNING: NOT SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE~~  
~~SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED~~

# THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

98th Year—No. 90 \*\*\*

☆☆☆

DALLAS, TEXAS, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1977

Circulation, 744-6161  
Classified, 744-1114  
Owner Desk, 744-6111

6 Sections

Price Fifteen Cents

## Oswald friend's death tape-recorded

OF LAYING WORTH

March 31, 1977, Dallas Times Herald

MIAMI, Fla. — For George de Mohrenschildt, the 43-year-old Italian-born engineer turned French aristocrat who was a friend of Lee Harvey Oswald, life was often unusual. When he ended it with a single shot from a shotgun this week, the fit was truly bizarre.

Known to de Mohrenschildt, had been living for the past two

weeks in a swank mansion owned by a former sister-in-law, a maid had planted a tape recorder in a bedroom to record her favorite soap opera. Thus de Mohrenschildt's last movements and final seconds are recorded on tape.

Investigators with the Palm Beach County sheriff's office were able to pinpoint the exact time of the suicide, 15 seconds past 2:21 p.m. Tuesday, because of the recording. The suicide was matched to a monitoring of the television program to determine the time of

death, police said.

Authorities have told The Times Herald that the maid turned the recorder on but then left the room and went downstairs.

De Mohrenschildt can be heard on the recording coming into the bedroom, pulling open a dresser drawer where Mrs. Charles E. Tilton III kept a 20-gauge shotgun, removing the gun and walking away, presumably into an adjoining bedroom.

A shot can then be heard, followed by

the continuing sounds from the characters in the soap opera.

Next, de Mohrenschildt's daughter, Alexandra, 33, can be heard calling her father's name. Then, after a few steps, her scream as she found her father dead.

Despite some speculation that de Mohrenschildt might have been killed because of his reported state visits that he had advance knowledge of the Kennedy assassination and his "importance" as a potential witness before the House

Select Committee on Assassinations, a Palm Beach County coroner Wednesday afternoon said the autopsy findings were "conducive to a self-inflicted gunshot wound."

"If he weren't famous and this wasn't of unusual interest because of who he knew, it would be rated as just another suicide," said Det. Lt. Richard Sherts, who headed the sheriff's investigation.

Dr. Gamble Curvas, assistant medical examiner, performed the two and one-half hour autopsy here. His report

to Lt. Sherts offered no unusual parts.

"If he was in ill health or anything like that, I was not informed of it," Sherts added.

Sherts said the full report of the autopsy would be made public soon.

Funeral arrangements were said to be complete early today, although family members were expected to agree on details later in the day.

De Mohrenschildt's wife, Jeanne, was seen TAPED on Pa



# Texans whose stories were not told to Warren panel will testify

PHOTO BY GALT

Women whose stories were not told to the Warren Commission are among the key witnesses. An assassination case to use in probing the conspiracy in the death of John F. Kennedy. St. Paul supervisor of police at Parkland Memorial Hospital told The News

she recalls four or five bullet fragments were taken from then Gov. John Connally rather than three as the Warren Commission found.

Committee investigators say they believe the bullet that supposedly struck Kennedy in the back and then passed through Connally's body would have weighed too much if more than three fragments were removed.

The other witness, a Texarkana area resident who prefers not to identify herself, has told committee probers she

was introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby in Ruby's Carousel Club here in the fall of 1963.

The Warren Commission said it found no evidence that Ruby, who shot Oswald to death in the basement of the Dallas police station two days after the assassination, knew each other.

The Texarkana area woman, who in 1963 was an entertainer in a nightclub near Ruby's club, also told committee investigators that movie film she took

of the assassination in Dealey Plaza was taken from her two days later by two men who said they were CIA or FBI agents. The film, not mentioned by the Warren Commission, was never returned to her, she told probers.

Cleburne architect J. Gary Shaw, who located the Texarkana area woman for the committee, quoted her as saying Ruby introduced Oswald to her and at least two others as "Lee Oswald of the CIA."

"I met with committee investigators

for about three hours in Dallas before they talked with her," Shaw said. "She called me a couple of days after they saw her. She said she has agreed to testify."

Shaw said she had been reluctant to come forward with the information because she "is scared to death" for reasons not directly connected with the assassination "and rightfully so." But Shaw declined to specifically state why.

Shaw said he also supplied investigators with another Dallas area witness who will testify that Ruby, Oswald and other men from Mexico and New Orleans met one morning on another occasion in the fall of 1963 in the Carousel Club. The witness was called by Ruby to come to the club early that day to serve drinks to some of those present, Shaw said.

Miss Bell, now supervisor of the operating suite at Children's Medical Center, said committee investigators probably brought her out March 12 as a result of what "all started in an incor-

rect statement in Jim Bishop's book ("The Day Kennedy Was Shot," published in 1968). . . . He (Bishop) had me finding the bullet and all this sort of stuff."

Miss Bell said Bishop found her story through an article she had written for a publication of the National Association of Operating Room Nurses about the operating room scene the day of the assassination. She said she recalled seeing four or five bullet fragments being placed in a glass.

"But please I am in mind, this happened 13 years ago," she said. "I have no proof of anything. I have no records. It was strictly on a recall."

Robert Tannenbaum, the committee's chief investigator of the Kennedy assassination, said a probers "can locate" the four or five fragments and show they weigh more than the metal missing from the aim at perfect bullet that allegedly fell from Connally's stretcher. "Then the very cornerstone and basis of the entire Warren Commission report is no longer valid."

# Old friend vowed suicide, psychiatrist claimed

PHOTO BY GALT

PHOTO BY GALT

PHOTO BY GALT

PHOTO BY GALT

the House Assassinations Committee's chief investigator of the Kennedy case. Neither Tannenbaum nor any other committee representative had contacted the psychiatrist by the time De Mohrenschildt had shot himself eight days later in West Palm Beach, Fla.

On Nov. 9, one week after De Mohrenschildt changed his mind about entering Terrell State Hospital, the former Mrs. De Mohrenschildt filed court papers with the Dallas County Mental Illness Department to force his commitment to the psychiatric unit of Parkland Memorial Hospital.

De Mohrenschildt agreed to go to Parkland voluntarily and stayed eight weeks until Dec. 30. He received electric shock treatment as a psychotic depressive.

A Dutch journalist, Willem Oltmans, about a month ago told the congressional committee he interviewed De Mohrenschildt seven weeks after he left Parkland Hospital. It was that interview, in which Oltmans said De Mohrenschildt asserted he knew in advance what Oswald was going to do be-

fore the assassination, that put the spotlight on De Mohrenschildt.

De Mohrenschildt, who had befriended Oswald and his wife when they came to the Dallas-Fort Worth area from Russia in 1962, left his post as a professor of French at Bishop College here March 1, a week after the Oltmans interview. They went to Belgium and Holland before De Mohrenschildt returned to this country March 17 to take up residence in the West Palm Beach mansion of a cousin of one of his four former wives.

De Mohrenschildt's last wife, Jeanne, in seeking to commit him to Parkland Hospital Nov. 9, told county authorities he had tried to commit suicide four times.

The last attempt, she told authorities, was Oct. 28, one day before he had come to the psychiatrist with a request to be committed to Terrell State Hospital. That amounted to an attempt to "drown himself in the bath tub," she told county authorities.

Other suicide attempts, the former Mrs. De Mohrenschildt said, involved

cutting his wrists and consuming entire bottles of drugs.

The mental illness history of De Mohrenschildt, as given county authorities by his former wife, related that he asserted "his telephone is bugged. The house is bugged — voices and people eavesdropping to what he says."

The former Mrs. De Mohrenschildt's mental illness history also stated he thought the FBI was "after him" and "the Jewish Mafia is closing in on him." She said he was having delusions of "ghosts of FBI and Jews."

The psychiatrist who made arrangements for De Mohrenschildt's commitment to Terrell State Hospital said one week before De Mohrenschildt killed himself he thought last October he was "suicidal."

"Obviously this man was depressed, wanted to escape, wanted freedom from his depression," the psychiatrist said, "and was suffering from delusions, which, of course, goes together. This doesn't make anyone crazy . . .

We are dealing with an extremely intelligent man."