

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	<i>John Walker</i>		<i>W</i>
2	<i>Shirley</i>		<i>MM</i>
3	<i>Eric</i>		
4	CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM		
5	RELEASE IN FULL 1998		
6			
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
<p>Latest ^{ARRIVALS} records on the JFK- deMicheaux ^{SCENE} should ^{BE} same. ^{AFRAID} I am ^{HAVE} longer ^{TIME} here ^{INVOLVED} time I just ^{CAUSE} came to get ^{LEAVE} worked! I have [?] retention [?] a [?] note to you discretion.</p>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
<i>[Signature]</i>			<i>11 April</i>
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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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

FROM:

Chief, DCD
912 Key

EXTENSION

2265

NO.

DATE 8 April 1977

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. SA/DO/O Eve Vidal
2D-0109 Hqs.

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FORM 3-62

610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DAL-31-77

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

DATE: 1 April 1977

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

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 Piver 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.

JWMoore/slm

J. Walton Moore
J. WALTON MOORE



5010-108

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~~WARNING: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION~~

~~SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED~~

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THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

98th Year—No. 90 ***

★★★

DALLAS, TEXAS, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1977

Circulation, 744-6101
Classified, 748-1414
Other Dept., 744-6111

6 Sections

Price Fifteen Cents

Oswald friend's death tape-recorded

HUGH AYNESWORTH
Copyright 1977, Dallas Times Herald

PALM BEACH, Fla. — For George Mohrenschildt, the 65-year-old Dallas petroleum engineer turned French tractor who was a friend of Lee Harvey Oswald, life was often unusual.

But when he ended it with a single shot from a shotgun this week, the fit was truly bizarre.

Unbeknownst to de Mohrenschildt, he 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 statements 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 Sheets, who headed the sheriff's investigation.

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

to Lt. Sheets offered no unusual aspects.

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

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

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

De Mohrenschildt's wife, Jeanne, who

See TAPE on Page 8

Two Texans whose stories were not

By EARL GOLZ

Two Texas women whose stories were not told to the Warren Commission 13 years ago are among the key witnesses the House Assassinations Committee intends to use in probing the possibility of a conspiracy in the slaying of President John F. Kennedy here Nov. 22, 1963.

Miss Audrey N. Bell, supervisor of the operating room at Parkland Memorial Hospital in 1963, 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 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 to

Oswald friend vowed suicide, psychi

By EARL GOLZ

A psychiatrist told The News one week before George de Mohrenschildt committed suicide Tuesday that during an examination last October De Mohrenschildt told him, "I am depressed, I am killing myself."

The psychiatrist, who asked not to be identified at this time, said De Mohrenschildt, 65, came to him Oct. 29 and asked that he be committed as a mental patient to Terrell State Hospital. Four days later, after the psychiatrist had made arrangements for admitting him voluntarily, De Mohrenschildt changed his mind and decided not to go to Terrell.

The psychiatrist said the Russian-born De Mohrenschildt didn't mention that he had personally known Lee Harvey Oswald before the Kennedy assassination, but he "was very depressed and came for help."

The News had relayed the psychiatrist's identity and telephone number the same day to Robert Tannenbaum,

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 De Mohrenschildt in the spotlight.

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 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 "drown himself in the bath tub," she told county authorities.

Other suicide attempts, the former Mrs. De Mohrenschildt said, involv-

told to Warren panel will testify

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 sought 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 bear 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 if probers "can locate" the four or five fragments and show they weigh more than the metal missing from the almost 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."

trist claimed

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."

Friend says de Mohrenschildt

Continued from Page One
daughter, Alexandra.

De Mohrenschildt told the committee of his friendship with Oswald, a one-time defector to the Soviet Union who returned to live in Dallas with his Soviet-born wife. The two families, though vastly different in background and education, had exchanged gifts and often discussed politics, he told the Warren Commission.

De Mohrenschildt, born to a family that fled Russia to Belgium at the time of the Russian revolution, was said by friends to be sympathetic with liberal causes and got along well with the politically aberrant Oswald.

"He liked young people," said Russell. "He fashioned himself an intellectual revolutionary and was taken with minority causes, particularly the black movement in the United States. He enjoyed people who were involved in causes and he must have felt Oswald was a challenging person to talk to."

At the time of his testimony before the Warren Commission, de Mohrenschildt denied any prior knowledge of the Kennedy assassination.

Only in later years, said Russell, after the assassination had been embroiled in never-ending controversy and after he had been interviewed by dozens of authors of books examining the assassination, was de Mohrenschildt convinced that Oswald was guilty.

Russell had been close to the Bishop Eckhardt declared.

found his body. For the past 15 years he had been married to Jeanne LeGon, a former New York fashion designer who most recently designed tennis garments under the trade name Smash Line.

His personnel folder at Bishop College, the predominantly black college in South Dallas where he taught Russian and French beginning in 1969 and for which he was a devoted and successful fund-raiser, states that he held a master's degree from the University of Texas.

Friends said that he was fluent in English, French, Polish, Russian, German and Spanish and that he recently took a year-long walking tour of Mexico and South America.

In the late 50s and 60s he was described as a successful petroleum geologist based in Dallas. His file at Bishop College states that he worked in that capacity as an adviser to the U.S. State Department in Pakistan, Ghana and Nigeria between 1956 and 1959.

From May 1963 until 1967, de Mohrenschildt was a petroleum adviser based in Haiti, then under the dictatorship of Papa Doc Duvalier. That meant he was in that country in November 1963 at the time of the Kennedy assassination.

Attorney Russell said that de Mohrenschildt died with very few assets but that his finances were "at a very high level prior to the assassination period."

Russell said he represented de Mohrenschildt or patch it up."

load in both Russian and French.

According to his immediate supervisor, Dr. Roy Watson, chairman of the English and foreign language departments, de Mohrenschildt was an effective and well-liked professor.

"He taught mostly tutorial courses and was well liked by the students," said Watson. "He was a good supporter of the college and had contacts with people who could financially help the college."

And according to Watson and other friends interviewed, things were going relatively well for the man until about eight months ago.

The Kennedy assassination controversy had been revived through magazine articles and there began talk in Washington of creating a special House committee to re-investigate the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"To be totally honest," said one associate, "George had not been in very good emotional health for the past few years, but particularly in the past eight months. He began to have bizarre hallucinations and distortions."

"He thought he was under surveillance. He believed people were following him—the FBI, the CIA, the KGB—all sorts of people. In the last six months, he became very suspicious of the people he worked with at Bishop College."

dt felt spies watching him

Last August, he and his wife moved from the Andros Apartments, 3715 Travis, where they had lived since June of 1973, to a two-bedroom, \$200-a-month apartment at 2737 Kings Road.

About that time, according to Russell, de Mohrenschildt was approached by a man from Austin whose name he (Russell) says he can't remember who said he was writing a book that would be entitled "The Black Shield" about de Mohrenschildt's life and its ruination following the assassination.

Russell believes that the very idea of another book frightened de Mohrenschildt and heightened his depression.

On at least two occasions, the attorney says, de Mohrenschildt attempted suicide. Following the most recent attempt last October, he was admitted on the advice of his wife to the psychiatric section of Parkland Hospital. Records there show he was released Dec. 30.

However, Russell recalls, he was still not healthy and argued constantly with his wife. According to the manager of the apartment complex where they lived, the couple was evicted in January following complaints of "constant loud, noisy and disturbing arguments" that angered neighbors.

After this, friends say, his wife left to live with relatives in California while de Mohrenschildt moved to an apartment close to Bishop College. The couple remained close, however, and communi-

cated almost daily by telephone.

About four weeks ago, sometime in late February according to Russell, de Mohrenschildt was approached by a Dutch journalist and longtime acquaintance, Willem Oltmans.

Russell says he arranged for a luncheon attended by de Mohrenschildt, Oltmans and himself at the Cipango Club, an old-line social club in the Turtle Creek area.

Russell said that little to add new significance to the assassination story was discussed during the luncheon but that Oltmans was obviously "looking for a story." The Dutch journalist, Russell says, proposed that de Mohrenschildt visit Holland and appear on Dutch television. A figure of several thousand dollars was mentioned as a proposed payment to de Mohrenschildt for his efforts.

Russell says he later left the two men to themselves. Oltmans could not be reached Wednesday.

Following the lunch, Russell recalled, de Mohrenschildt apparently took Oltmans up on his offer and accompanied him to the Netherlands. The pair apparently did meet with Dutch publishers but the proposed interview on television never took place.

They went to Brussels, Belgium, together and it was there, sometime in March that de Mohrenschildt disappeared, leaving his suitcase and clothes

with Oltmans. Russell said that he received a receipt for the clothing, which is now being held in a Brussels bank.

Oltmans, meanwhile, reported de Mohrenschildt missing to American authorities and was then summoned before the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

In his testimony, Oltmans claimed that de Mohrenschildt had told him that he had prior knowledge of Oswald's planned assassination of Kennedy.

"He said to me, 'How do you think the media would react if I came out and said that I feel responsible for Oswald's behavior?'" Oltmans quoted de Mohrenschildt as saying.

That testimony by Oltmans caused a flurry of new speculation around the assassination committee, whose continued existence at the time was in doubt.

Authorities in Florida now believe that de Mohrenschildt, in mid-March, boarded a plane from Brussels to an exclusive area of West Palm Beach to be with his daughter Alexandra.

It was there he is believed to have been met by free-lance writer Edward Jay Epstein, who told authorities that he interviewed de Mohrenschildt on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

At about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, police say, his body was found by his daughter in the coastal mansion where he was staying. An official verdict of suicide was issued Wednesday.