

Why Did Intelligence Agents of U.S., Russia Contact Him?

'Mysteries' Developing in Oswald Probe

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By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON—The most "sensitive" question confronting the special commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination is whether Lee Harvey Oswald was a double agent at the time of the slaying.

On this sensationally significant enigma, the probers have directly conflicting testimony.

BOTH U. S. and Russian authorities have flatly denied that he was in their employ. At the same time, the commission has indisputable information from intelligence and security agencies of the two countries that they were "in contact" with Oswald on various occasions in the four years prior to the Kennedy slaying.

Following are highlights of un-

published evidence in the hands of the special investigators:

• The Oswald file the Soviet turned over to the State Department reveals that Russian intelligence and security agents contacted Oswald a number of times between 1959 and 1962 — when he was living in the Soviet as an avowed "defector."

• FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, in an "affidavit," discloses that his agents made "three contacts" with Oswald after he returned to the U. S. All of them, Hoover explains, were wholly investigative. At no time was Oswald in the FBI's employ, nor was money given him.

• Former Central Intelligence Director Allen Dulles, a member of the commission, has told the other six members that he has no

knowledge of Oswald's acting as a CIA agent. John McCone, present head of CIA, has said the same thing.

• State Department records show that Oswald had several meetings with the CIA representative in the U. S. embassy in Moscow. During this period, the assassin was seeking to renounce his citizenship. One State Department cable, No. 234, dated Nov. 2, 1959, reports that Oswald was interviewed by the CIA and other embassy officials.

• Mrs. Marina Oswald, 23-year-old widow of the accused killer, told the commission that Soviet security agents contacted her husband a number of times while they were living in Russia. Under questioning, she emphatically denied that she or Oswald had

been KGB (secret police) agents or were "associated" with that organization. Mrs. Oswald confirmed that her uncle is a Soviet "military colonel," and that she and Oswald resided near him in Minsk.

One of the curious backstage aspects of the investigation is former CIA Director Dulles' acute sensitiveness about information relating to that agency.

FOR EXAMPLE: At Dulles' vigorous insistence, certain questions and answers about Oswald's possible training as a secret agent while in Russia were put off the record; that is, they were not transcribed and are not recorded in the testimony.

Throughout the inquiry, Dulles has displayed a militant protectiveness regarding the CIA.

Other mysteries being explored by the commission are:

• Where Oswald obtained an apparently steady flow of money, amounting to several hundred dollars, during his frequent periods of unemployment.

• How Oswald was able to obtain a passport in New Orleans to go to Russia despite the fact that the State Department had a file detailing his "defection" in Moscow and four years' residence in the Soviet.

This passport, Do02526, was issued on June 25, 1963. In his application, Oswald stated he proposed traveling from three to 12 months as a tourist to England, France, Germany, Hol-

land, Finland, Italy, Poland and Russia.

Oswald's original passport, dated Sept. 10, 1959, was numbered 1733242.

His second passport was given him the day after he asked for it, and without the required "name check" for individuals known to be Communist or to have Communist associations. So far, the commission has no explanation for this official dereliction. Authorities of the Passport Division are to be questioned about that.

A SENATOR has given the investigators the name of a Texas attorney who claims to have information about Oswald's being a double agent. The lawyer reportedly learned this from a client who has been operating in Communist circles for a number of years.

Yuri Nossenko, the important Soviet security official who recently defected to the U. S., may be questioned by the commission.

In his position as a key member of the American section of KGB, Nossenko would have had access to files on Oswald. Whether he did is not known. Staff members of the commission are slated to confer with him to determine whether he testifies before the commission.

Lately, the commission's closed-door sessions have been sparsely attended.

Only one of the seven members was present during the interrogation of Oswald's brother. This member was former CIA Director Dulles, who balked at any testimony that might reflect on the intelligence agency.

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