

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20015 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM	In Search Of... Lee Harvey Oswald	STATION	WDCA TV Syndicated
DATE	August 8, 1981	6:30 PM	CITY Washington, DC
SUBJECT	Full Text		

NARRATOR: November 22nd, 1963. A lone figure walks to a window in the Texas school book depository. In a matter of seconds the President of the United States will be mortally wounded. And the name Lee Harvey Oswald will be etched in history.

But did Oswald really kill President Kennedy? New evidence points to the possibility that he did not.

The series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture. The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily the only ones, to the mysteries we will examine.

During the cold war era of the early 1960s President John F. Kennedy is to become the most admired leader of the Free World.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY: There are many people in the world who really don't understand or say they don't want what is the great issue between the Free World and the communist world. Let them come to Berlin.

NARRATOR: His attraction is magnetic. Seldom has one man unified the people of so many democratic nations.

In October, 1962, President Kennedy learns of the build-up of Soviet missiles in Cuba, and orders a blockade of Cuban harbors. It results in one of the most humiliating political defeats in Russian history.

Little more than a year later the leader of the Western

OFFICES IN: WASHINGTON D.C. • NEW YORK • LOS ANGELES • CHICAGO • DETROIT • AND OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES

Material supplied by Radio TV Reports, Inc. may be used for file and reference purposes only. It may not be reproduced, sold or publicly demonstrated or exhibited.

world is assassinated. There are some who blame the Soviets, but nothing can be proved.

Within hours Lee Harvey Oswald, ex-Marine, former Russian defector, and, as we have come to believe, a distraught and frustrated young man is in custody.

Before Oswald can tell his full story he is murdered in front of millions of television viewers.

Almost a year later the Warren Commission delivers its verdict on the Kennedy assassination. Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. He was not a part of a conspiracy.

LEONARD NIMOY: The Warren Commission concluded there were three shots fired during the assassination, all of the, coming from behind the President out of a Texas school book depository window. But many witnesses to the assassination claimed that at least one shot came from the grassy knoll situated to the right and front of the President's car. In spite of these contradictory accounts, the conclusions reached by the Warren Commission would officially stand until startling new evidence came to light.

NARRATOR: It was a recording that had been overlooked for 15 years. The tape should never have existed at all.

At the time of the assassination the microphone on a police motorcycle was jammed in the "ON" position, transmitting sound to police headquarters, where it was recorded. When the shots were fired in Dallas the microphone picked up those sounds. But the tape, and you're listening to the actual sound now, was seemingly indecipherable. If the sounds of gunshots were there they were impossible to detect by the human ear.

In 1978 Dr. James Barger of the Acoustic Firm Bolt, Beranek and Newman, attempted to find those gunshots.

DR. JAMES BARGER: We began our analysis by recording the tape into the computer. We digitized its data and made a file. Then we had the computer filter this file in order to remove the sound of the motorcycle as much as we could. The motorcycle noise is repetitive. The piston fires repetitively.

The filter was taught to recognize that sound and to eliminate it. We then had the computer make a long paper picture of those filtered sounds. The picture was about 500 feet long. And it represented a pictorial view of the filtered sound for the whole five and a half minutes that the motorcycle microphone was stuck open.

We examined that entire 500 feet of acoustical wave forms to see if there were any wave forms that looked like they

might represent gunfire. In fact, we did find in six places where sound bursts indicated the possibility of gun fire on the Dallas police tape.

At this time we realized we needed a more careful, a more stringent analysis technique, one that would definitely determine whether these impulsive sounds were gunfire or whether they were extraneous noise.

NARRATOR: Dr. Barger and his team returned to Dallas to perform a sound recreation of the Kennedy assassination. Shots were recorded at various places at the assassination site for later comparison with the motorcycle tape.

DR. BARGER: At the end of our analysis we were able to conclude that there had been at least four shots fired during the assassination. Three of these had been fired from the Texas school book depository and one from the grassy knoll.

NARRATOR: The Texas school book depository is located next to the grassy knoll, along the parkway the President's motorcade had traveled. Bob Groden, a photo-optics specialist, attempted to synchronize an enhanced version of the motorcycle tape with the famous Zapruder film, an 8MM home movie shot by a motorcade observer. This synchronization, shown now for the first time on nationwide television, reveals with shocking clarity that at least two gunmen had to be involved, one firing from behind the President, the other from the right front.

At least four shots were fired. But it's the third, the one from the front, the grassy knoll, that the motorcycle tape, and Dr. Barger's testimony, eventually lead the United States government's acknowledgement that the assassination of John F. Kennedy was the probable result of a conspiracy. Where did that conspiracy originate?

Less than two months after the assassination, Yuri Ivanocich Nosenko, a high level Russian KGB agent, defected to the United States. As recreated here for "In Search Of..." Nosenko told American CIA officers that as part of his duties he had personally supervised the KGB file on Lee Harvey Oswald while Oswald lived in Russia. Nosenko assured the Americans that Oswald had no relations with Soviet intelligence and acted without Soviet knowledge in the assassination of President Kennedy. Many of the CIA officers found serious discrepancies in Nosenko's story and suspected that Nosenko was sent here by the KGB to mislead the Americans about Oswald's Soviet connections.

To prove his honesty Nosenko agreed to submit a lie detector examination. The key questions: Did Nosenko supervise the KGB file on Lee Harvey Oswald? And -- was Lee Harvey Oswald involved in any way with the intelligence activities of the KGB?

According to the results of the polygraph test Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko was a liar.

Some sources close to the CIA claim that Nosenko was then placed under "hostile" interrogation, treated more like a captured spy than a defector. Nosenko was put through grueling, unrelenting and abusive interrogation. As flawed as Nosenko's story was, he refused to break, clinging instead to absurd and indefensible explanations. Though Nosenko did not break, the CIA officers were certain that when the Warren Commission questioned Nosenko it too would find his story unbelievable. But the Warren Commission never questioned Nosenko.

One man who thinks he knows why is Edward Epstein, noted authority on the Warren Commission. Epstein believes that the commission was misinformed by the FBI.

EDWARD EPSTEIN: The last thing J. Edgar Hoover wanted was to open up the investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's connections with the Soviet Union. And if the Warren Commission began to question Nosenko it would lead exactly in that direction.

Remember, the FBI is in charge of internal security in the United States. Here was Lee Harvey Oswald who came over from Russia a defector, who had given out secrets of state to the Russians. For the FBI should have been keeping a cloiser eye on him.

If it suddenly turned out through the questioning of Nosenko that Oswald was a Soviet agent, then the FBI would be held responsible. For why weren't they keeping Oswald under surveillance?

And that's the reason that J. Edgar Hoover did not want to open up the questioning of Nosenko. He did not want to get into the area of Oswald's connection with the Soviet Union.

NARRATOR: If Nosenko was part of a Russian plot did it include the assassination of President Kennedy?

* * *

NARRATOR: Lee Harvey Oswald was born in New Orleans in October, 1939. His father died two months before. His childhood was marked by instability, moving with his mother from house to house, city to city. By the time he was ten he had attended six different public schools. While he was regarded as friendly and likable, his teachers detected something hidden within him, a certain tenseness.

When he was 17 Oswald fulfilled a longtime ambition and joined the Marine Corps, where he served honorably for

three years. Following his discharge in 1959 Oswald abruptly renounced his American citizenship and defected to the Soviet Union. It is the next two years that know the least about Oswald.

NIMOY: In 1961 Oswald returned to the United States, reclaiming his American citizenship. With him he brought a Russian wife, Marina, and a diary describing his life while in Russia. The diary tells the story of a bitter young man becoming increasingly disillusioned with the communist system. However, the diary also contains some puzzling discrepancies.

NARRATOR: Could it be fake? Another attempt by the Russians to mislead us. To find out we went to the National Archives in Washington, DC to interview internationally known handwriting analyst, Thea Stein Lewinson. Mrs. Lewinson had spent more than four months working on the Oswald diary, putting it through microscopic scrutiny before she arrived at her evaluation.

THEA STEIN LEWINSON: This is not the spontaneous writing. It is written very slowly and deliberately. One could assume that possibly Oswald copied excerpts from his original diary which were given to him by some representative of Soviet intelligence. And that he then wrote very slowly in order to comply with the demands. However, here and there one can see that he gets irritated and especially at the end of the pages he frequently gets quite fatigued.

NARRATOR: Mrs. Lewinson believes that fatigue in Oswald's writing -- as shown here by lines that gradually run downhill -- indicate that the complete diary was written in two or three sessions, rather than day by day.

LEWINSON: I think that Oswald was supervised by Soviet intelligence in order to -- in order to mislead the Americans at his return to the United States.

NARRATOR: Edward Epstein.

EPSTEIN: When I went through Lee Harvey Oswald's diary I found two anachronisms -- two things that were out of date. One was on October 31, where he talked about the American consul McVicker who wasn't yet to be consul for another year. The second thing was he talked about rubles in terms of old rubles that were ten for a dollar rather than new rubles that were one for a dollar.

This was not a genuine diary. It was a fake. It was written after the fact to give Lee Harvey Oswald a legend so that he could explain to the FBI and to other people in American what he was doing in Russia for over two years. What was he supposed to be doing in Russia, not what he was doing.

NARRATOR: If Oswald's diary is in fact a fake and if Nosenko only defected to mislead the Americans, it leads one to ask what were the Russians trying to hide? What happened to Oswald during his stay in the Soviet Union that the Russians don't want us to know about? Could there have been a plot so bizarre no one would have dared thought it possible?

On November 24th, 1963 medical examiners began an autopsy on the individual assumed to be Lee Harvey Oswald. It is recreated here for "In Search Of..." Their findings were to create a public controversy that would surface 15 years later when British lawyer, author and investigator Michael Eddowes made public the results of his investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald.

MICHAEL EDDOWES: This is the most terrifying story you will ever hear -- and the Russians don't want you to hear about it. The man who killed President Kennedy was not Lee Harvey Oswald. He was a Soviet lookalike. His first name was Alec, and he came to the United States as a member of the KGB assassination squad for the direct purpose of killing President Kennedy.

NARRATOR: Eddowes says that the Dallas autopsy was performed on an imposter. And points to a number of inconsistencies to prove his point.

EDDOWES: The man who went to Russia was 5'11" in height; there is no question about this. There are eleven recordings of this height. The length of the corpse of the assassin was 5'9".

PHYSICIAN: External examination reveals a 5'9" male.

EDDOWES: The autopsy report records only two scars on the upper left arm of the assassin.

PHYSICIAN: Over the left arm there's a quarter inch transverse scar and a one and a quarter inch scar.

MAN: Got it.

EDDOWES: Whereas the real Oswald had three scars on the upper left arm, the autopsy report records a large scar on the inner aspect of the left wrist. The real Oswald had no such scar.

At the age of six the real Oswald had a mastoidectomy operation which left a one inch long scar behind his left ear and over the mastoid bone. The part of the mastoid bone was itself removed and at the operation a rubber dam drain was

inserted so there was not only a scar, there was a depression in the flesh and a hole in the head of about one dime in size.

NARRATOR: An examination of Oswald's Marine Corps records confirms the existence of the mastoidectomy scar behind Oswald's left ear.

EDDOWES: Now the autopsy doctors, experienced pathologists, cut up over both mastoid areas to remove the scalp so that they could take off the top of the head to examine the brain. In doing this they could not have failed to have seen the one inch scar and the hole in the head. The autopsy report does not record the scar, does not record the depression, and although the skull was X-rayed, does not disclose the hole in the skull.

NARRATOR: Eddowes requested that Tarrant County officials exhume the body buried under the name of Lee Harvey Oswald. His request was rejected and Eddowes has since taken legal action in state court.

Could there have been two Oswalds? Eddowes claims the picture on the right is the second Oswald, the Russian impersonator.

Imposter or not the bigger mystery remains. Who fired the shot from the grassy knoll?

*

*

*

NARRATOR: At a small cemetery outside of Fort Worth a single grave lies alone, remote from all others. We have always assumed this to be the grave of Lee Harvey Oswald. Is it possible that we are wrong?