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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  
AF 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 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. Vary 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.

JW Moore/slm

J. Walton Moore  
J. WALTON MOORE

Attachment: As stated

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~~WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE  
SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED~~

# THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

98th Year—No. 90 \*\*\* ★ ★ ★ DALLAS, TEXAS, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1977 \*\*\*\*\* 6 Sections Price Fifteen Cents

## Oswald friends' death tape-recorded

...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 do Mohrenchildt'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 2:31 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 Mohrenchildt 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 Mohrenchildt'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 Mohrenchildt might have been killed because of his reported status as 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 "conclusive 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. Gennine Curran, assistant medical examiner, performed the two and one-half hour autopsy here. His report to Lt. Sheets offered no unusual facts.

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

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 a date later in the day.

De Mohrenchildt's wife, Jeanne, was seen today on Fox

...WORTH  
...1977, Dallas Times Herald  
...to A. H. Fla. For George  
...the 83-year-old Dal-  
...engineer turned French  
...was a friend of Lee Har-  
...life was often unusual.  
...with a single  
...this week, the fi-  
...Mihrenchildt,  
...for the past two

# Friend says de Mohrenschildt felt spies watching him

(Continued from Page One)

Alexander told the committee that he had been married to Joanne LeGon, a former New York fashion designer who had 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 fundraiser, 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.

de Mohrenschildt was a petroleum adviser 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 in his unsuccessful attempt to obtain more than \$1 million said to be due him from the Haitian government.

Following the assassination and his highly publicized testimony before the Warren Commission, de Mohrenschildt was brought by authors and would-be investigators probing the Kennedy assassination and he was featured in nearly every book written about the assassination.

Friends said that it was largely as a result of this limelight that de Mohrenschildt was no longer able to work as a geologist. "The jobs suddenly were not available," said one friend.

And in a world that greedily begged for every shred of information it could get on the death of the handsome young president, de Mohrenschildt himself became a victim of the assassination.

Still, he remained a prominent figure in the artistically active Dallas Russian community.

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 eight months. He began to have bizarre hallucinations and delusions."

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, \$300-a-month apartment at 2737 Kings Road.

About that time, according to a friend, 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 relation to the assassination.

Russell believes that the very idea of another book frightened de Mohrenschildt and brightened 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. 20.

However, Russell recalls, he was still not healthy and argued consistently with his wife. According to the manager of the apartment complex where they lived, the couple was evicted in January following complaints of "constantly 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 Ottema.

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

Russell said that like to add new significance to the assassination story was discussed during the luncheon but that Ottema 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. Ottema could not be reached Wednesday.

Following the lunch, Russell recalled, de Mohrenschildt apparently took Ottema 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 Ottema. Russell said that he received a receipt for the clothing, which is now being held in a Brussels bank. Ottema, meanwhile, reported to American subscribers and was then summoned before the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

In his testimony, Ottema 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 news would react if I came out and said that I had responsibility for Oswald's behavior?'" Ottema quoted de Mohrenschildt as saying.

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

Authorities in Paris 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 canal mansion where he was staying. An official verdict of suicide was issued Wednesday.

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

By [Name]

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

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

Miss Bell said Bishop found her story through an arch: 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 let me in mind, this happened 13 years ago," she said. "I have no proof of anything I have no records. It was scrubby on a record."

Robert Tammant was the committee's chief investigator of the Kennedy assassination. He said probers "can't see" the four or five fragments and show they weigh no more than the metal missing from the film in perfect belief that allegedly fell from Connally's stretcher, then the very circumstances and basis of the entire Warren Commission report is no longer valid."

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 inco-

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."

for 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

the House Assassinations Committee's chief investigator of the Kennedy case. Neither Tammant 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 electrical 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-

## Old friend vowed suicide, psychiatrist claimed

By [Name]

It told The News one month ago that during the last 12 months he had been depressed, that

he, who asked not to be named, said the Mohrenschildt family had not to him that he and a committee as a mental illness patient had the psychiatrist had said he was putting him in a hospital and decided not to

and he had been in the hospital for months known Lee floor. The Kennedy assassination was averted if Oswald had not killed the psychi-