

THE BOSTON PHOENIX

27 MAY 1975

# Assassin or Agent?

## Tracing the Links Between Oswald and the Spooks

STAT

By Sid Blumenthal  
and R.D. Rosen

*Eleven and a half years ago, President John F. Kennedy was shot to death while riding in a motorcade through the streets of Dallas.*

*Ten and a half years ago, the Warren Commission delivered its judgment that Kennedy was assassinated by a deranged Lee Harvey Oswald, who acted alone, was not part of any conspiracy and was not a member of any US intelligence agency.*

*Today, 78 percent of the American people — according to national polls — just don't believe the Warren Commission.*

*In the following article, Sid Blumenthal and R.D. Rosen compile substantial evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was not only not a lone assassin, but was almost certainly a US intelligence operative.*

“He [Oswald] was playing ball — writing letters — to both elements of the Communist party. I mean he's playing ball with the Trotskyites and the others. This was a strange circumstance to me.”

The voice on this transcript of a Warren Commission meeting — recently procured from the National Archives by assassination researcher Harold Weisberg — is that of then-Representative Gerald Ford, a member of the Commission.

The date is January 22, 1964, and the discussion pertains to a phoned report received by Commission counsel J. Lee Rankin earlier in the day from the attorney general of Texas, Waggoner Carr; the report is that Oswald had been “an undercover agent” for the FBI since September of 1962 and had been paid \$200 a month.

The Commission is greatly troubled by this information but unable to look into the report because it has no investigators of its own. And as Commission member Allen Dulles, the former CIA chief, tells his colleagues, one couldn't exactly approach J. Edgar Hoover or the FBI directly, since any intelligence officer who happened to know of Oswald's affiliation with the FBI would never tell.

“Wouldn't tell under oath?” Justice Earl Warren asks.

Dulles replies, “I wouldn't think he would tell it under oath, no.”

Besides, as Rankin says, “Part of our difficulty in regard to it is that they [the FBI] have no problems. They have decided it is Oswald who committed the assassination. They have decided no one else was involved. They have decided . . .”

Here Senator Richard Russell interjects: “They have tried the case and reached a verdict on every aspect.”

In short, the FBI had already decided that Oswald was a lone, demented gunman.

Whatever its misgivings, the Warren Commission in the end went along with this version — and never investigated the report that Oswald had been an undercover FBI agent and thus, perhaps, part of a conspiracy.

Even Gerald Ford, who at least for a moment thought there was something amiss with this lone nut theory, went on to pen a book, *Portrait of an Assassin*, supporting the Commission's findings that Oswald acted alone.

### The Doubters

Two Commission members — Rep. Hale Boggs of Louisiana and Sen. Richard Russell — had doubts about the Commission report. Boggs, who disappeared in a light plane flying over Alaska in 1972, had wanted to issue a minority report pointing out errors in the majority's findings. Russell said in 1970: “I never believed that he [Oswald] did it without any consultation or encouragement whatsoever. Too many things caused me to doubt that he planned it all by himself.”

Texas Governor John Connally, who was wounded in the shooting, has always disputed the Commission's verdict that he had been wounded by the same bullet that passed through Kennedy's throat. And as one Commission lawyer reportedly said, “More shots mean more assassins.”

In February, former Warren Commission attorney David Slawson, now a USC law professor, said that evidence of a man posing as Oswald on several occasions prior to the assassination had been withheld from the Commission by the FBI or the State Department, and that there may have been a high-level government cover-up in the assassination probe.

In March, US Justice Department attorney Kenneth Mighell — at the request of Warren Commission critics — launched his own re-examination of the killing. Even though he still supports the Commission's findings, he is troubled by the FBI's refusal to make ballistics evidence, normally made public in criminal cases, available to him.

Also in March, former Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry called for a new investigation after seeing the Zapruder film, which convinced him that Kennedy had been killed by a shot from the front. (The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald — the lone gunman — had fired three shots at Kennedy — all from the rear.)

Last month also brought statements from former Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas and Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade (who had been preparing the case against Oswald before the latter was gunned down by Jack Ruby in the basement of Dallas Police Headquarters) that they believed there had been a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

Victor Marchetti, a former CIA official and author of the CIA-censored *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, went further by saying in March: “The more I have learned, the more concerned I have become that the government was involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.”

This month, a retired Air Force Colonel who once acted as liaison between the Air Force and the CIA said he now believes there was a conspiracy and urged Congress to create a special investigative committee to reopen the case. “To carry out what was carried out in Dallas,” said Col. L. Fletcher Prouty, “would have required more than one individual operating by himself.”

Congressman Henry Gonzalez of Texas had already introduced a House Resolution calling for a full Congressional probe, but early this month the resolution was buried — at least temporarily — in the House Rules Committee.

Assassination researchers invariably return to an examination of Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission claims did all the shooting from a window of the Texas School Book Depository building. While many researchers don't believe Oswald was the assassin, they still view Oswald as a primary figure and an elusive one.

According to the Commission, Oswald was deranged and unable to “enter into meaningful relationships with people.” This version reduced Oswald's alleged motivation to the psychological, since the Commission could not find — or was unwilling to find — a plausible political explanation.

Continued

Oswald's history is indeed murky. But upon close study of the evidence, much of it hidden in the Warren Report itself, the mystery of Oswald becomes comprehensible.

He was almost certainly a US intelligence operative.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and CIA Director John McCone both swore that Oswald had never been in their employ, and the Warren Commission emphasized that "there was absolutely no type of informant or undercover relationship between an agency of the US government and Lee Harvey Oswald at any time."

One of the Commission witnesses who disputed this claim was Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. She insisted that her son was "an agent of the government" but could only present fragmentary evidence, most of it from memory.

"Lee went to many, many a school, gentlemen," she testified.

Mrs. Oswald was certain that her son, while a Marine, had been in Taiwan for some kind of intelligence training or mission, a claim the Warren Commission brushed aside.

A Defense Department memorandum on Oswald's Marine service prepared for the Commission notes that he indeed "served with the Marine Air Control Squadrons in Japan and Taiwan."

In 1959, Oswald received military training, supposedly in radar surveillance, from John E. Donovan, who told the Commission that "our function at that base [where Oswald was stationed] was to surveil aircraft, but basically to train both enlisted and officers for later assignment overseas."

Francis Gary Powers, the pilot of the U-2 spy plane shot down by the Soviets in 1960, revealed in his memoirs that the base to which Oswald was assigned was the Atsugi, Japan, base for U-2s in the Far East. Powers made note of Warren Commission Document 931 (dated May 13, 1964, CIA National Security, Classification Secret) entitled "Oswald's Access to Information About the U-2." No details of what this document contains have ever been released.

However, two of Oswald's Marine colleagues told the Commission that Oswald had clearance and access to classified material. One testified that Oswald "must have had secret clearance . . . because that was a minimum requirement for all of us." The other said, "We all had secret clearance."

It is also at Atsugi — one of the larger CIA staging areas in Asia — that Oswald learned Russian, reportedly in his "spare time."

In September, 1959, Oswald applied to the Marine Corps for a hardship discharge, ostensibly because his mother had been injured. Oswald's discharge was granted three days after his request. Many see an invisible hand in such a record-time release.

Within a few months of his discharge, Oswald "defected" to the Soviet Union.

Powers suspects that Oswald's "defection" was linked to the fate of his U-2 flight. At that period in the Cold War, the US and the USSR were regularly "defecting" agents to each other.

Within two weeks of his arrival in the Soviet Union, Oswald presented himself at the American Embassy to declare that he was renouncing his US citizenship and was going to turn over his knowledge of radar secrets to the Soviets.

Did Oswald also turn over U-2 information? One cannot be sure, but it would have been a relatively cheap way for him to buy credibility with the Soviets, for at that time very few U-2 flights were being made.

But after April, 1960, U-2s began flying over the Soviet Union again — and Powers's plane was shot down.

Another unanswered question is whether Oswald, on orders from hard-liners within the US intelligence apparatus, furnished U-2 data so that one of the spy planes could be shot down and thus wreck the Summit Conference between Khrushchev and Eisenhower. "Peaceful co-existence" was anathema to hard-liners.

Newly declassified documents obtained from the National Archives by researcher Harold Weisberg indicate that the Soviet secret police suspected Oswald of being an undercover US intelligence operative or, as the documents state, a "sleeper agent." This information was based on FBI interviews with a former KGB officer, Yuri Nosenko, who defected to the US in early 1964.

Two years after Oswald's defection, he showed up at the US Embassy in Moscow and applied for a new US passport. Oswald — the defector and betrayer of US military secrets — was given a new passport without question, plus several hundred dollars to get home.

The granting of the passport in record time was approved by the US Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, a bastion of right-wing power within the State Department. The Bureau had been set up during the McCarthy era to ferret out "communists" and "fellow travelers." By 1962, the Kennedy administration had had enough of this reactionary group and Secretary of State Dean Rusk was moving quickly to dismantle it.

Yet the Bureau still exercised power when Oswald decided to come home again. It would seem that Oswald ought to have been an obvious target for the Red-hunters.

Oswald, however, encountered no difficulties. Instead, on his arrival in New York he was met by Spas T. Raikin, whom the Warren Commission identified merely as "a representative of the Travelers' Aid Society." But Spas T. Raikin was no ordinary

greeter; he was the Secretary General of the American Friends of the Anti-Bolshevik Nations Inc. (AF-ABN), an international organization with strong intelligence connections.

Peter Dale Scott, a professor at Berkeley and a highly respected researcher, suggests in his as yet unpublished manuscript, *The Dallas Conspiracy*, that "Raikin was himself some kind of agent either for the FBI or some analogous agency such as the CIA or Army Intelligence. If he was not, then the contact and/or surveillance which one would expect from the FBI had somehow been delegated to a member of a right-wing political organization which was directly engaged in a bitter polemic with the Kennedy administration."

### The Dallas Exiles

Oswald, who had returned from the Soviet Union with a Russian wife — whose uncle was a member of the Soviet Secret Police — settled in Dallas among a protective circle of friends, virtually all of them anti-communist, Russian exiles.

This transplanted community congregated around three main institutions: the Russian Orthodox Church, which reportedly received CIA funding; the Tolstoy Foundation, which, according to the Warren Report, received "as much as \$400,000 a year subsidy" from the US government to arrange defections; and the Texas oil industry. These emigres sheltered the "Marxist" Oswald, drove him to parties, provided him with contacts and jobs, and donated about 100 dresses to his wife; all of this is documented in the Warren Report.

The two men who acted as the closest guardians of Oswald had intimate ties with the intelligence apparatus. George de Mohrenschildt, member of the Dallas Petroleum Club and World Affairs Council, was perhaps the most solicitous patron. An acquaintance of Jackie Kennedy's family, he admitted to having worked for French intelligence during World War II and maintained close business relations with men fronting for the CIA. Among these were George Brown, president of the Brown Foundation, a CIA conduit, and John Mecom, founder of the San Jacinto Fund, another CIA conduit. De Mohrenschildt was a cosmopolitan consultant to oil companies (according to the Warren Report) and just happened to be in Guatemala City, the jumping-off point for the Bay of Pigs invasion, during that particular fiasco.

continued

George Bouhe, a 60-year-old Russian who aided Oswald's wife, Marina, in caring for her baby, was concerned that she lived too far from his home for him to come promptly to her assistance, according to Warren Report testimony. The Commission didn't investigate the more intriguing information that Bouhe was the personal accountant for Lewis MacNaughton of DeGolyer and MacNaughton, an oil exploration consulting firm. MacNaughton was also a director of Republic National Gas and the Republic National Bank — with Karl Hoblitzelle, whose Hoblitzelle Foundation served for years as a CIA conduit. Such links to the CIA and other intelligence agencies were widespread in wealthy Dallas circles. Oswald was more than accepted by this elite; he was escorted in his social life and cultivated for no apparent reason.

In the spring of 1963, Oswald left his modest Dallas home for New Orleans, where he established a one-man chapter of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The address Oswald stamped on his leaflets, 544 Camp Street, was actually the headquarters of a Cuban exile group; no Fair Play committee was lodged there. Incidentally, the name of the press secretary of this anti-Castro organization, Carlos Jose Brinquier, appeared in Oswald's notebook. The Warren Commission interviewed Brinquier but did not inquire into these suspicious coincidences. If Oswald was a supporter of Fidel, why was he associating with the Bay of Pigs crowd?

Oswald swiftly established himself as a pro-Castroite during his summer foray in New Orleans by engaging Carlos Brinquier, a Cuban exile to whom he had already introduced himself, in a "fight." Oswald, according to Brinquier's Warren Commission testimony, stood on a street corner and told him, "OK, Carlos, if you want to hit me, hit me." Brinquier chose not to strike Oswald and both were promptly arrested. Charges against Brinquier were dropped and Oswald was fined \$10, but not before he requested to see the FBI and "somebody went to the First District" police station to file an affidavit in his behalf, according to Marina Oswald. The Warren Commission never bothered to find out who this "somebody" was: Brinquier testified that two FBI agents showed up and took Oswald aside for a discussion.

Upon his return to Dallas, Oswald was apparently tracked by the FBI. Or was he? FBI agent James Hosty of Dallas turned over to the Warren Commission a detailed dossier on Oswald's "Connections with the Communist Party" which included this data: "On April 21, 1963, Dallas confidential informant T-2 advised that LEE H. OSWALD of Dallas, Texas, was in contact with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New York City at which time he advised that he passed out pamphlets for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. According to T-2, OSWALD had a placard around his neck reading, 'Hands Off Cuba Viva Fidel.'" Hosty told the Commission that this information had come from the "FBI field office in New York"; however, J. Edgar Hoover's description of the FBI Oswald file discloses no such New York-to-Dallas transmission. Agent T-2, then, was a Dallas-based informer, probably the man who wrote to the Fair Play Committee in New York on April 19, 1963: "I stood yesterday for the first time in my life, with a placard around my neck, passing out Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets . . . My home-made placard said: HANDS OFF CUBA! VIVA FIDEL!"

The author of this confession, according to the Warren Commission, was none other than Oswald. But if Oswald was agent T-2 for the FBI, why did the Bureau build a file on his alleged "Communist" ties? The Warren Commission did not follow up on this, nor did it adequately explain why the name of FBI agent James Hosty was written in Oswald's notebook. Hosty was the FBI's Oswald expert, having interviewed him before November 22, 1963, and during the short time that Oswald was held by the Dallas police. His testimony before the Commission was supposedly the most informed FBI report.

Virtually all Warren Commission critics advance the theory that Oswald was set up as the fall guy to allow the conspiracy to escape detection.

Immediately after the Kennedy killing, police questioned everyone — including Oswald — in the Texas School Book Depository building. Within an hour of the assassination, Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit was shot to death in another part of the city. Within 75 minutes of the assassination, Oswald was arrested while sitting in a movie house a few blocks from where Tippit was slain.

cluded that Oswald had gone into the movie house to hide.

But George O'Toole, former chief of the CIA's Problem Analysis Branch and author of *The Assassination Tapes*, suggests an alternative scenario. O'Toole points out that movie theaters are common meeting places for intelligence operatives. If Oswald had been targeted as the fall guy for the conspirators who actually carried out President Kennedy's murder, then an almost deserted and darkened theater would have been an excellent place for his elimination; this could have been effected with a legitimate cover, since it could be reported that he had resisted arrest.

"But something went wrong," O'Toole writes. "There may have been more patrons in the theater than expected, the house lights may have been turned up too soon, or perhaps some of the police officers who responded to the report of a suspect at the theater were not in on the game. In any case, chance bought Lee Harvey Oswald forty-eight more hours of life."

Among the lawmen who entered the Texas Theater to find Oswald was FBI agent Robert Barrett. There was no compelling reason for the FBI to be involved in the hunt for a suspect alleged at that time only to have killed a Dallas policeman. FBI agent Barrett's name turns up in the Warren Report as part of the Bureau investigation of a possible conspiracy. Barrett, however, was never called to testify and his role was never explained. Again the Warren Commission refused to probe any FBI/CIA links to Oswald.

### The Two Oswalds

The Commission also did nothing with the possibility that the name Lee Harvey Oswald was itself used by persons unknown to frame the real Oswald. On November 9, 1963, a Lee Harvey Oswald was in a Dallas car dealership making arrangements to test-drive a car. However, the Warren Commission says that on that day the real Oswald was in Irving, Texas, writing a letter to the Soviet Embassy — and for another thing, Oswald did not drive. On September 23, 1963, Oswald, according to the Commission, was on a bus to Mexico City; the same day, a man calling himself Lee Harvey Oswald went to the Selective Service Office in Austin, Texas, asking about his military discharge.

The most intriguing element of the "Two Oswald" theory, however, concerns the movements of yet another Oswald, in Mexico City.

assassination, the CIA notified the FBI that one of its sources in Mexico had reported that on October 1 a man identifying himself as Lee Harvey Oswald had entered the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring about a telegram that had been sent to Washington. The CIA said it believed the man was the same Lee Harvey Oswald, a former US Marine, who had defected to the Soviet Union and had returned.

The CIA source in Mexico City also described Lee Harvey Oswald as "approximately 35 years old, with an athletic build, about six feet tall, with a receding hairline."

The real Oswald was, however, 23 years old, slender and of medium build.

In the April 3, 1975, *New York Review of Books*, George O'Toole and Bernard Fensterwald of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations disclosed photos of the Mexico City Oswald. The photos had been taken by CIA surveillance agents in Mexico and were released to O'Toole and Fensterwald after a Freedom of Information Act suit.

The CIA photos show an Oswald that looks like John Havlik more than the alleged assassin of President Kennedy.

George O'Toole told the *Phoenix* that an intelligence contact of his knew who this mystery man was, and that if O'Toole were given subpoena power he would produce him and prove that this Oswald was a professional assassin.

A few months before Lyndon Johnson died, his former aide, Leo Janos, paid a visit to the LBJ Ranch and brought up the subject of Kennedy's murder. "I never believed Oswald acted alone," Johnson told him. Johnson also called the Warren Report into question in a conversation with Walter Cronkite, shown on television only last month. In his talk with Cronkite, Johnson asserted that there was a conspiracy behind the killing of Kennedy. He suspected that perhaps the Cuban government was retaliating against the "Murder, Inc." he said the US operated in the Caribbean.

Recent disclosures about the CIA indicate that LBJ was not melodramatic in his characterization of the government's efforts to assassinate foreign leaders. There were numerous CIA attempts on Fidel Castro's life, all obviously failures. Castro himself says that he possesses concrete evidence of about 100 tries. But the conduct of the CIA does not prove that Fidel attempted to exact retribution. In fact, the Warren Commission emphatically ruled out the theory that the revolutionary Cu-

continued

bans had stalked JFK. Such a theory would have been easy for the Warren Commission to let stand; blaming communists seems always to be an easy method of explaining complicated political events. But in order for the Commission to establish Oswald as a solitary killer, it had to refute conspiracy theories of both the left and right. The Commission, therefore, dismissed the argument advanced by the right that Oswald, as an agent of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (and by extension an agent of Castro), committed the deed out of communist conviction. Neither the FBI nor the CIA produced any substantial evidence to support the anti-communist claim, and the Warren Report noted this.

What the Warren Commission neglected to investigate, of course, were the right-wing links to the assassination.

### The Rockefeller Probe

It is unlikely, too, that the Rockefeller Commission — which was formed to investigate the CIA — has been looking very deeply into possible CIA involvement in the Kennedy assassination. Formed as it was merely to chide the CIA for minor infractions and assure the citizenry that all is well, the Rockefeller Commission is a latter-day Warren Commission. It will deal with the JFK assassination in a familiar way.

Already, virtually all of its findings have been leaked to the press. The two exhibits known to have been considered by the Commission in its inquiry into a possible conspiracy are a picture of three tramps being escorted by police from the scene of Kennedy's murder, and the famed Zapruder film. The tramps photograph was brought to the attention of the Rockefeller Commission by Dick Gregory, who had it brought to his attention by erstwhile "Dylanologist" A.J. Weberman of New York. Gregory and Weberman contend that two of the vagrants bear uncanny resemblances to E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis of Watergate fame; the Commission has turned the picture over to FBI photographic experts for examination.

Tempting as such a photo is, drawing past and present conspiracies neatly together, many Kennedy assassination theorists have discounted it. Assassination researchers are simply uncertain about who the unidentified tramps really are, and are unwilling to stake the credibility of their entire effort on one, possibly dubious, photo. Mark Lane, author of one of the first critiques of the Warren Report,

*Kush to Judgment*, labeled Gregory's assertions about the picture "irresponsible" and a "great disservice" to serious assassination research. "The Rockefeller Commission wants to prove there wasn't any conspiracy in the assassination. The way they will do it will be to seize on irresponsible statements like Gregory's. He has given them the opportunity to ignore the hard evidence," Lane charged.

Carl Oglesby, a member of the Cambridge-based Assassination Information Bureau and author of the forthcoming book, *Yankees and Cowboys* (Sheed and Ward), termed the tramps picture "a red herring" that will be used "to discredit the Warren Report critics."

Many other assassination researchers are leery of the role played in this affair by A.J. Weberman, the founder and leader of a ragtag band of Greenwich Villagers called the Dylan Liberation Front. The group was dedicated to setting Bob Dylan back on the revolutionary road from which he had ostensibly strayed after his near-fatal motorcycle accident and marriage. Weberman conducted endless vigils in front of Dylan's Bleecker Street residence, sifting through his garbage to discover dirt about Dylan's reclusive domesticity.

### The Zapruder Shot

The other piece of evidence the Commission has assessed is the film of JFK's killing taken by Dallas dress manufacturer, Abraham Zapruder. The Zapruder film shows Kennedy thrust violently backward by the apparent impact of a bullet coming from the front. Five physicians gathered by the Rockefeller Commission analyzed the autopsy report, saw the film, and announced that JFK was reacting spastically to a shot from behind.

Cyril H. Wecht, coroner of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and a Warren Report critic, stated that the Rockefeller Commission doctors did not see crucial evidence: "They did not examine the brain itself [which, oddly, is missing from the National Archives], nor the microscopic autopsy slides or neutron activation analysis of bullet fragments which would further aid in determining their origin." The five physicians admitted to Wecht's charge, but maintained that this material was unnecessary. Wecht pointed out that all five have personal or professional ties to doctors who conducted a similar review in 1968, or to the doctors who performed the 1963 autopsy — and thus might be unwilling to go against the findings of their colleagues.

None of this should surprise those familiar with the composition of the Rockefeller Commission and how it has carried out its work. Over half of the members have had direct links to the CIA; only 10 investigators were hired by the Commission; only 18 weeks were allotted for probing; and testimony was heard only 18 times. Despite this record, the Commission did hear Frank Sturgis confess that he had participated in CIA assassination plots in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti and Panama. Still, C. Douglas Dillon, Commission vice-chairman and Chase Manhattan Bank director, said that "with one or two major exceptions, everything the CIA did was peripherally connected with legitimate work."

This judgment has not exactly stood the test of time, even though it was made only two weeks ago. "CIA probers in Congress threaten to embarrass Rockefeller," reports *The Wall Street Journal*. "Senator Church's special subcommittee is out to dig up any dirt that the report next month by Rocky's commission won't reveal; charges of whitewash would automatically follow."

Far from resolving the mystery, a Rockefeller Commission whitewash would serve only to aggravate public skepticism about official explanations — skepticism that has been heightened by the Vietnam War and Watergate. It remains to be seen whether the Church Senate committee — which starts hearings in July — will be able to apprehend a truth that has been at large for over a decade.

continued

# The CIA and Mission Impossible

5

By Sid Blumenthal  
and R.D. Rosen

George O'Toole is a former computer specialist who worked as chief of the CIA's Problem Analysis Branch from March, 1966, to January 19, 1969. Since then he has written a spy novel with an occult twist called *An Agent on the Other Side* (David McKay); more importantly, O'Toole has been trained in the use of the Psychological Stress Evaluator (PSE) and applied it in his research into the John F. Kennedy assassination, recently published in *The Assassination Tapes* (Penthouse Press).

The PSE, brainchild of three retired Army intelligence officers who formed a company in 1970 to manufacture anti-bugging equipment for private clients in their war against industrial espionage, can determine through the electronic analysis of recorded voices whether a subject is telling the truth. The key to the PSE's effectiveness is a natural physiological tremor in the human voice that subtly vibrates 10 times a second and disappears to a lesser or greater extent under conditions of stress. Although the PSE is still controversial, particularly in the eyes of the American Polygraph Association, it is now used by 19 American law enforcement agencies and 13 foreign countries.

O'Toole ran through the PSE extant tape recordings of Lee Harvey Oswald claiming that he had not shot anyone. His denial showed no stress at all, forcing the conclusion that Oswald was telling the truth when he responded to a newsman's question on November 22, 1963: "I didn't shoot anybody, no sir."

O'Toole's findings were examined and confirmed by three polygraph and PSE experts, one of whom, the highly esteemed and now retired army polygraph expert, L.H. Hitchcock, was courageous enough to confirm Oswald's innocence in a letter to O'Toole that reads in part: "My PSE analysis of these recordings indicates very clearly that Oswald believed he was telling the truth when he denied killing the President. Assuming that he was not suffering from a psychopathological condition that made him ignorant of his own actions, I can state, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Lee Harvey Oswald did not kill President Kennedy and did not shoot anyone else."

In the guise of a magazine journalist, O'Toole went to Dallas and was able to record private and phone conversations with several key figures in the Kennedy killing and its aftermath, including members and former members of the Dallas police department who lied, according to O'Toole's PSE analyses, about events surrounding the assassination.

In general, *The Assassination Tapes* contributes powerful scientific evidence that Oswald was innocent and that Dallas police officers, 11 years after the fact, are still lying to protect, wittingly or not, the actual conspirators. On the basis of his new PSE evidence and his familiarity with intelligence operations, O'Toole formulates a scenario for Oswald's movements in Dallas and his victimization as a "patsy." (See accompanying story.)

O'Toole was in Boston recently and spoke to the *Phoenix* about his own experience in the CIA and about the agency's possible connection with the Dallas gunplay of November, 1963: "While working out here at Hanscom Field for a little outfit called The System Development Corporation, as a computer specialist, I did things that were well thought of and the CIA approached me right here in Boston in 1964. But we couldn't get together on what grade I would come in at and I refused them. They came back a year later with an offer I wasn't inclined to refuse and started work in March of 1966, working mainly as chief of their Problems Analysis Branch in the Intelligence Directorate [one of the four CIA directorates — the other three being the Plans Directorate, the Support Directorate and the Directorate of Science and Technology]. I did computer analyses of raw intelligence information towards producing finished analytic intelligence, using the computer as an aid to drawing conclusions and often statistical probabilities. The Intelligence Directorate is like a big newspaper, but the amount of data coming in daily is several orders of magnitude greater than what comes across the wire services at a paper. We'd get this together to figure out, for example, who's likely to have the power in Saudi Arabia now that Faisal is dead. Most of what I worked on related to Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and mainland China. That's the kind of electronic detective work we were doing. I didn't own a trenchcoat.

"We had no request for domestic intelligence work, but that doesn't mean they weren't doing it. The Records Integration Division was the operational people's equivalent of the Intelligence Directorate's office of Central Reference, where my branch was. So these are guys who, because it was all so super-sensitive, would do all their own computer-processing and had their own computer and we couldn't even get into the room. It was completely separate. This was where Sy Hersh's 10,000 files

"I knew about these people because they were always bugging me about things. These are the folks who put together the *Mission Impossible* devices. As a matter of fact, they would send old tapes of *Mission Impossible* shows to CIA stations in Liberia, for example, for morale purposes. Now, one of these guys from the Records Integration Division took me on a tour — of course, they didn't show me everything — but they showed me cameras that didn't make a sound when the shutter closed, and they're experts on audio surveillance. Anyway, this guy was saying that the agents in the field see *Mission Impossible* and say, 'Why can't we have that?' And the next thing they knew they were getting formal requests at RID for something they saw on the show. I thought that was kind of jolly.

"Well, several years later, after I was working with Colonel Bell, one of the inventors of the Psychological Stress Evaluator, and my work with it was well-known, I was home and a friend of mine called me and he said, 'Turn on channel 5 right now — *Mission Impossible's* got a Psychological Stress Evaluator on

continued

it. I said, 'What are you talking about?' This was a rerun of *Mission Impossible*, since it had been off the air for several years, and I turned on the television and sure enough, there was PSE — physically — being used by the *Mission Impossible* team. What the devil is this? So I called Colonel Bell and told him about it and he said, 'Yeah, after I left the Army I was technical adviser for the show.' "

O'Toole turned to a discussion of the CIA, the Rockefeller panel and the Kennedy assassination in Dallas: "If the CIA was involved in this — and I'm beginning to wonder if they weren't — they've of course got a very big stake in keeping it from all coming out.

"Did you see the interview the other night with Daniel Schorr talking to Rockefeller on CBS? When he asked Rocky, 'Are you going to look into the JFK assassination?', Rockefeller was extremely careful in his statements, but he said in effect that if the CIA was involved, it was a domestic operation and obviously that comes under our charter, and we would look into it. Then Schorr later said that CBS had learned — meaning Schorr had learned — that the Rocky panel had learned that the CIA withheld evidence it had turned up in the course of the Warren investigation — that evidence being that apparently information from Soviet sources which the CIA decided was

planted evidence and therefore determined on its own should not be shown to the Commission.

"The thing that worries me is that the Rockefeller panel will look at the evidence and say, 'We looked at it and brought Mr. Colby in and he swore to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and said they had nothing to do with the assassination,' and that'll be it. Now, this is inevitably going to go on the agenda of the Church committee in the Senate, which is certainly less likely to be involved in a whitewash. Now we all know that the Rockefeller committee is a whitewash, that they hired David Belin [former Warren Commission counsel and an 'apologist for its report] to lead the pack. What we have to do is just press for a joint Congressional committee that is going to do nothing but look at the assassination, armed with the power of subpoena and the power to grant immunity selectively in exchange for testimony.

"A two-pronged effort is required: first, to get people in Middle America interested and dissatisfied with the official situation and, second, to put pressure on Congress and educate Congressmen to tell the difference between fuzzy photographs that *might* be Hunt and Sturgis and the ineluctable conclusions regarding the ballistics of a bullet and the evidence in the Zapruder film."