

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

September 27, 1995

To: Jeremy Gunn

cc: Anne Buttimer

From: Doug Horne

Subject: Allegations Regarding Lee Harvey Oswald and the JFK Assassination
Attributed to Richard Case Nagell

1. This information is submitted as follow-up to the “identifiers” previously provided to staff investigators by e-mail. All information provided below is from Dick Russell’s book The Man Who Knew Too Much, unless otherwise stated.

2. The following allegations regarding Lee Harvey Oswald (and his activities and associations) have been attributed to Richard Case Nagell:

A. The Foreign Affairs Section of the Japanese National Police identified Lee Harvey Oswald entering the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo (circa 1957), and photographed him doing so. The photograph was shown to Nagell. Prior to entering the embassy, the Japanese said he was pacing nervously back and forth in front of the Embassy fence in the company of another American.

B. Nagell then arranged to be introduced to Oswald in Japan, and questioned him about his visit to the Soviet Embassy. Oswald told Nagell that he visited the Embassy “...to have some coins identified.”

C. By other means (not specified), Nagell determined that Oswald met with a Colonel Nikolai G. Eroshkin, who was officially listed as a military attache, but was suspected of being the legal GRU resident in Japan.

D. Oswald and Eroshkin had more than one meeting.

E. The CIA was attempting to get Eroshkin to defect during this period (1957-8).

F. Oswald was acquainted with a Japanese professor emeritus of political science at Tokyo university (Dr. Chikao Fujisawa), whom Nagell (on loan from the CIC to the CIA) was trying to enlist in the recruitment of Colonel Eroshkin, and Oswald actually met with both Nagell and Fujisawa on

one occasion. Nagell was under the impression that Oswald and Fujisawa also met on other occasions. Fujisawa had a talent for languages, and spoke fluent English, excellent Russian, and five other languages.

G. Professor Fujisawa made several visits to the Soviet Embassy, allegedly to finalize an agreement for a cultural exchange program between Japan and the USSR. Although the FBI later (in 1959) were of the opinion that Fujisawa was a right-wing politician, Nagell claims that he suspected and eventually knew for a certainty that Fujisawa was really a Soviet agent. Although it had been Nagell's intent to enlist Fujisawa in the CIA's attempt to get Colonel Eroshkin to defect, he dropped all plans to recruit Fujisawa in the "Eroshkin" project on or about January 10, 1958. Nagell did so at the request of two Japanese police officials, one of whom, Jun Murai, was a personal friend. Murai was head of the Tohoku Regional Police Bureau (and formerly the director of the Cabinet Research Office, Japan's equivalent of the CIA); he warned Nagell that the "Eroshkin" project involved "something else" other than defection, something "unlawful" which might strain relations between Japan and the USSR even further. Once the Japanese police officials warned Nagell that "the Japanese government could no longer afford to tolerate the mischief caused by the CIA in Japan," Nagell ceased attempting to aid the CIA with the "Eroshkin" project.

H. Professor Fujisawa approached Nagell in the United States in 1959, and in June, 1959 admitted to Nagell that he was a Soviet agent. After failing to get Nagell to voluntarily aid his espionage efforts, he threatened Nagell with blackmail about his Field Operations Intelligence (FOI) activities in Japan, and also about alleged "attempts to blackmail and kidnap a Soviet official in Japan;" i.e., the Eroshkin case. Nagell countered by threatening to expose Fujisawa as a Soviet agent to the Japanese PSIA (Public Security Investigation Agency). Following this June, 1959 encounter in New York city Nagell never saw or heard from Fujisawa again.

I. Oswald had "CIA connections" in Japan¹, and both Nagell and Oswald had girlfriends at the Queen Bee (Tokyo's third most expensive nightclub, which normally catered to an elite clientele: field-grade officers, pilots ((some of whom were U-2 pilots)), and junior officers with private incomes); Oswald's girlfriend was older than he, and named Midorii.²

J. That the CIA's Desmond Fitzgerald is connected to what author Dick Russell calls the "Oswald saga." (Author Russell speculates that when Nagell says about Fitzgerald, "I did him some favors in 1957...likewise, I did him some favors in Mexico, in the 1962-3 period...", Nagell may be

¹Bernard Fensterwald memo of conversation with RCN of May 31, 1978.

²Ibid.

referring to his contacts with Oswald in Japan and Mexico City.) Note: Desmond Fitzgerald, who joined the CIA in 1951, was a zealous advocate of CIA covert action who commenced a very active covert action career in Taiwan during the Korean War, then served as Station Chief in the Philippines and Japan, before being promoted to Head of the Far East Division (in Washington). Fitzgerald was transferred

to head the CIA's anti-Castro task force in Autumn, 1962 and prior to his death by heart attack on July 23, 1967 had become the head of all CIA clandestine operations. Fitzgerald met with CIA cryptonym AM/LASH on November 22, 1963, the day JFK was assassinated.

K. Nagell claims he was informed that Desmond Fitzgerald was behind the "Eroshkin" counterintelligence case in Japan.

L. Nagell says that the Warren Commission was incorrect about the origins of Oswald's alias "Hidell" (i.e., it was not derived from fellow Marine John Rene Heindel's name), and that he (Nagell) knows "precisely where the name Hidell came from and why it was used." Nagell fed sufficient clues to author Dick Russell for Russell to conclude that Oswald's alias "Hidell" was very likely created by Richard Case Nagell, and was almost certainly a combination of HID (Headquarters Intelligence Division, the forerunner of the South Korean CIA), and the last syllable of Nagell's own name (ell). (Editorial note: the significance of this would seem to be that Nagell was "running" Oswald at some point, if Nagell was the inventor of his pseudonym.)

M. Nagell was in Mexico City in from August-October 1962 engaged in a "disinformation" role in regard to the Cuban Missile Crisis on behalf of a U.S. Intelligence agency. (Author Russell is of the opinion that DIA originally sent him to Mexico City, but Nagell only hinted at this and would not confirm which agency originally sent him.) During September 1962, Nagell was approached by the KGB in Mexico City and asked to do two things:

(1) Investigate an Alpha 66 plot (which the KGB was aware of) to assassinate President Kennedy; and

(2) Monitor the activities of former defector Lee Harvey Oswald for the KGB; reason given by the KGB was that Oswald was considered emotionally unstable by the KGB while in the Soviet Union, and the Soviets feared that he was prone to commit some act which could bring some embarrassment to the Soviet Union.

Nagell claimed that CIA contact "Bob" in Mexico City authorized him to take the KGB "bait" and carry out his Soviet assignments as a CIA "double agent" on a "disinformation" mission against the Soviet Embassy. "Taking the bait" seems to have included a false/staged attempt to renounce his U.S. citizenship at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. The double-agent role is the reason Nagell describes himself as having been an intermittent "investigator (informant) for the CIA" from October 1962-September 1963. For several months afterward, Nagell provided information to both the CIA and FBI.

N. Late in October 1962, Nagell commenced his surveillance of Oswald while passing through Dallas by automobile en route New York City from Mexico.

O. In February 1963, Nagell drove from Florida to Texas and spent some time inquiring into the status of Lee Harvey Oswald--reasons and circumstances were not stated to author Dick Russell.

3. The following allegations regarding, or reasonably related to, the JFK assassination have been made by Richard case Nagell:

A. In January, 1963 he investigated various anti-Castro activities in Miami. Specifically, he "...checked out an alleged connection between a Miami resident named Eladio Del Valle and New Orleans CIA informant Sergio Arcacha-Smith; investigated an associate of ...right-wing extremist David W. Ferrie of New Orleans...conducted a surveillance on a man, said to have been an ex-CIA employee, observed talking to exile leader Manuel Artime and former Cuban senator/racketeer Rolando Masferrer." (Based on clues from Nagell, Russell believes this "ex-CIA employee" to have been the person of Cuban extraction with the war name "Angel".

B. Nagell has stated that "Angel was in Miami during the latter part of January 1963."³ Nagell clarified to author Russell in 1976: "The two other figures directly involved (*presumably in the assassination*) were known to Oswald by the given names "Angel" and "Leopoldo", and were said to be former CIA employees of Cuban extraction, born and raised in Cuba. Both were connected with a violence-prone faction of a CIA-financed group operating in Mexico City and elsewhere."

C. When asked by Russell if he could identify the real names of "Angel" and "Leopoldo", Nagell stated "I know the names that were supposed to be real. I knew names. And their backgrounds."

D.

³RCN letter to Bernard Fensterwald dtd March 21, 1975.