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ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : BAXTRUM, GEORGE P. JR.
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
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DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 06/10/1994
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE
COMMENTS : 45 OF 55 PAGES NAR

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 3/9/64	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/14/63-2/25/64
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TITLE OF CASE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-NATIONAL	REPORT MADE BY GEORGE P. BAXTRUM, JR.	TYPED BY vtc
CHARACTER OF CASE IS - SWP		

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Classified by *SP8/BJC*
Declassify on: **OADR**

REFERENCE:

Report of SA GEORGE P. BAXTRUM, JR., dated 11/22/63,
at NY.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

Information included in instant report obtained from NY T-1 is mainly of a documentary nature with limited distribution within the SWP, and has, therefore, not been identified as to the exact date it was received. This has been done to further conceal a highly confidential source, who furnished a large quantity of information when contacted which would possibly tend to reveal the exact nature of the source.

The dates NY T-1 was contacted were 12/13/63; 1/10, 2/7/64.

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65 | 645-8918

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NY 100-4013

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- Subsection 3 (unwarranted invasion of privacy)
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65-645-8918 p B, C, D, E

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Copy to: 1- DIO, 3rd Naval District (RM)
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Report of: GEORGE P. BAXTRUM, JR.
Date: 3/9/64

Office: New York, New York

Field Office File #: 100-4013

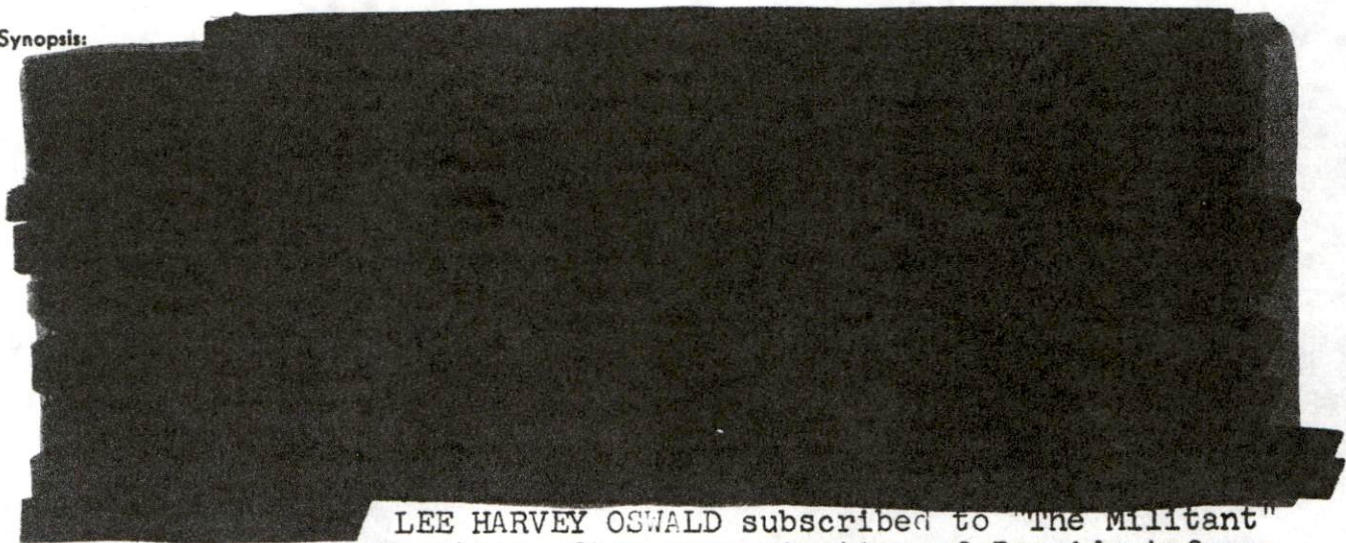
Bureau File # 100-16

Title: SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY - NATIONAL

9803-Rad/mek
10-1-93
(JFK)

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - SWP

Synopsis:



LEE HARVEY OSWALD subscribed to "The Militant" and SWP slowed activities after assassination of President, fearing possible reprisals.

NAR

NAR

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Declassify on: NADR
12/3/83

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NY 100-4013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

[REDACTED]	2
[REDACTED]	2
[REDACTED]	4
[REDACTED]	5
[REDACTED]	6
[REDACTED]	8
[REDACTED]	8
[REDACTED]	10
[REDACTED]	11
[REDACTED]	12
[REDACTED]	19
[REDACTED]	19
B. Reaction to Assassination of President KENNEDY	30
[REDACTED]	35
[REDACTED]	

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65-645-8918 p 2 thru 29

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28

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NY 100-4013

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NY T-12
February 11, 1964

NAR

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B. Reaction to Assassination of
President KENNEDY

Speaking in New York City on November 27, 1963, FARRELL DOBBS stated that the Party was very upset over the fact that LEE HARVEY OSWALD, the accused assassin of President KENNEDY, was reported to be in possession of a copy of "The Militant". According to DOBBS, SWP files reflected that OSWALD had a subscription to the publication which expired in September, 1963. However, he was still receiving copies of the paper at the time of the assassination, November 22, 1963. It is the policy of "The Militant" to continue sending issues subsequent to the subscription expiring in the anticipation that it might be renewed. According to DOBBS, the SWP was distressed over the fact that it possessed information possibly pertinent to inquiries being conducted by the Government concerning the assassination.

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NY 100-4013

The Party could not, without embarrassment, furnish this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation DOBBS said, so the information was made available to the 'New York Times' through a lawyer retained by the Party. This action was taken in an attempt to get the Party "off the hook" in regard to information it had concerning OSWALD.

2 (u)

NY T-6
December 4, 1963

It is noted that in the edition of the 'New York Times' of November 27, 1963, the following was printed:

"Publishers of 'The Militant', a weekly newspaper here that reflects views of the Socialist Workers party but is not an official organ of that Trotskyite group, said yesterday they had found that OSWALD had been briefly a subscriber.

"A spokesman said OSWALD had sent in \$1 for a four month introductory subscription in December, 1962 and renewed this for another four months at \$1, expiring in September, 1963, with no further communication indicated in the records.

"The mere fact that a person subscribes to a publication, a spokesman added, is no indication of whether or not he is sympathetic to any position the publication espouses - sometimes just the opposite".

A letter was sent by DOBBS to all branch organizers of the SWP on November 27, 1963 setting forth that the current issue of "The Militant" would deal extensively with the assassination of President KENNEDY and the political aftermath.

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NY 100-4013

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He recommended that balanced judgment be exercised in all Party activities in view of the many political implications of the assassination. He said that there was a "smear attack" against the socialist movement which created unknown factors concerning the present public attitudes. DOBBS cautioned that it would be necessary to feel the way carefully into the changed situation. DOBBS further wrote that for the present, the role of the SWP would be to help others think out the basic meaning of the changed political situation. He said that it would be a serious mistake to try to immediately resume activity at the tempo and scope that prevailed before the assassination. DOBBS enclosed photostats of the article appearing in the New York Times of November 27, 1963.

NY T-4
December 4, 1963

In "The Militant" of December 2, 1963 there was set forth a public statement issued by FARRELL DOBBS as National Secretary of the SWP immediately following the assassination of President KENNEDY. The statement condemned the assassination as an inhuman, anti-social and criminal act, and sympathy was extended to Mrs. KENNEDY and her children. It set forth that the assassination stemmed from an atmosphere created by racists and ultra-conservative forces.

Reviewing the political outlook at the SWP plenum on December 27, 1963, FRED HALSTEAD said it was still not clear what the ~~financial~~ *final* reaction would be, but for the present there was a definite smear against the socialist movement because President KENNEDY had been assassinated by an avowed Marxist. HALSTEAD said he did not believe there would be a witch hunt however, because the United States Government was too afraid of world opinion.

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NY 100-4013

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HALSTEAD further said that the direct effect on the Party since November 22, 1963 had been at a minimum. He said the police had come to the SWP National headquarters in New York, but there was no reason to think their presence was anything other than what was claimed, protection against counter-revolutionary activity. He said the largest anti-Trotskyist indications had been in Bloomington, Indiana.

In regard to OSWALD, HALSTEAD recommended that the SWP line should be to emphasize his claims of innocence. It was recommended that the Party stay away from any Trotskyist versus right wing discussions.

Speaking to the plenum on December 29, 1963, EDWARD SHAW also noted that there had been some increase in "the witch hunt" since the assassination, but felt that the SWP propaganda offensive could overcome this.

NY T-3
December 27, 1963
December 29, 1963

In a letter sent by FARRELL DOBBS to another SWP leader, following the SWP plenum, DOBBS said the SWP would remain in the background and wait for further developments. He said the Party was watching the proceedings of the WARREN Commission very carefully and would decide future action after analyzing the Commission's report.

dm

NY T-13
January 26, 1964

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NY 100-4013

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On January 27, 1964, FARRELL DOBBS was interviewed in the presence of his attorney, ROWLAND WATTS, at 112 East 19th Street, New York, New York. DOBBS was interviewed by Special Agents ALESIO SAVIOLA and ANTHONY D. LEONE, who advised DOBBS that the Presidential Commission investigating the assassination of President KENNEDY had specifically requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain from the SWP any data concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

WATTS stated that DOBBS searched the SWP files and had found that OSWALD had a trial subscription to "The Militant". OSWALD also sent a letter to the SWP setting forth a change of address and another indicating a desire to join the organization. According to WATTS, this latter letter was answered in a routine manner to the effect that it took more than just filling out an application to become an SWP member. OSWALD was told that since there was no SWP branch in his locality, he would perhaps desire to distribute "The Militant" in his area.

WATTS stated he had possession of the material described and DOBBS would willingly turn it over to the Presidential Committee upon receipt of a letter to WATTS requesting the data.

New York daily newspapers on February 19, 1964 carried a story saying that the current issue of Life Magazine would feature a write up on LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Also printed was a photograph of OSWALD appearing on the cover of Life Magazine, which it was stated depicted him holding a rifle which may have been used in the assassination and holding in front of him a copy of a newspaper called "The Militant".

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NY 100-4013

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Once again there was considerable concern on the part of the SWP leadership as to what reaction there might be to this further publicity of the fact that OSWALD had subscribed to "The Militant" *RM*

NY T-6
February 24, 1964

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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65-645-8918 p 36 thru 47

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