

INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1978

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The select committee met, pursuant to adjournment, at 9:15 a.m., in room 345, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Louis Stokes (chairman of the select committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Stokes, Devine, Preyer, Fauntroy, Thone, Sawyer, Ford, Fithian, and Edgar.

Staff present: G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel and staff director; James McDonald, staff counsel, and Elizabeth L. Berning, chief clerk.

Chairman STOKES. The quorum being present, the committee will come to order.

At the outset of today's hearing, I would like to make a couple of observations.

During the course of our hearings, on two occasions we have had individuals who have attempted to disrupt the proceedings, and on those occasions, it has been necessary for the Chair to order those persons to be removed from the room.

The Chair would like to make it clear that these are congressional hearings. First, they are to be conducted with a certain amount of dignity, and accordingly the Chair will not tolerate any disruption whatsoever of these hearings. We hope that all individuals observe the practices of the House and not cause this type of action to have to be taken during the course of these hearings.

Second, this morning's witness, at the time the witness is brought into the room, I will ask that all individuals remain seated until after the witness has been brought into the room and seated at the witness table, and then again when the witness leaves the room, we will ask that all persons remain in their seats until the witness has been escorted from the room.

Mr. Blakey.

NARRATION BY G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL

Mr. BLAKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Marina Prusakova was born on July 17, 1941 in the Russian village of Molotovsk near the White Sea. She was raised, for the most part, by her grandmother.

In August 1959, Marina moved to the city of Minsk, and in March 1961, at a dance, she met a young American who called himself Alik. Six weeks later, Marina and Lee Harvey Oswald were

married. It is fair, therefore, to presume that in the succeeding years Marina was the closest person to Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Oswalds remained in Russia until June 1962, at which time they moved to the United States. They went to Dallas, the home of Lee's mother and a brother. In the spring of 1963, they moved to New Orleans, then back to Dallas in September.

After Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy and then shot to death by Jack Ruby, Mrs. Oswald testified a total of four times before the Warren Commission. All of her testimony was in closed session.

In 1965, Marina Oswald married Kenneth Porter.

In October of 1977, Priscilla Johnson McMillan published her "Marina and Lee," a book in which Marina cooperated so as "to speak, through her more capable words, the things the people should know."

There will be four general areas of questioning of Mrs. Porter this morning: First, Russia; second, Dallas from June 1962 through April 1963; third, New Orleans from April 1963 to September 1963; fourth, Dallas from September 1963 to November 1963.

It would be appropriate now, Mr. Chairman, to call Mrs. Porter. Chairman STOKES. The committee calls Mrs. Porter.

Mrs. Porter, would you please stand and raise your right hand and be sworn?

Do you solemnly swear the testimony you will give before this committee is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. PORTER. I do.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you.

You may be seated.

The Chair recognizes counsel for the committee, Mr. James McDonald.

Mr. McDONALD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

For the record, would you please state your full name?

TESTIMONY OF MARINA OSWALD PORTER

Mrs. PORTER. Marina Nikolaevna Porter.

Mr. McDONALD. And were you one time known as Marina Oswald?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. McDONALD. Mrs. Porter, are you accompanied today by an attorney?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. And would you please have your attorney identify himself for the record?

Mr. HAMILTON. My name is James Hamilton, and I practice law in the District of Columbia.

Mr. McDONALD. Thank you.

Mrs. Porter, when and where were you born?

Mrs. PORTER. I was born in Soviet Union in city of Molotovsk on July 17, 1941.

Mr. McDONALD. And with whom did you live during your early childhood years?

Mrs. PORTER. With my mother, stepfather, and my grandmother.