

Translation: (This may not follow the original exactly as I only have rough notes of my Russian letter from which to make this translation.)
(Translation made Jan. 26, 1964. Letter written:

Dec. 27, 1963

Marina, dear,

Truly, I don't know what to say. I don't know whether it is better to be quiet or to speak. Things are already difficult for you, and I don't want to trouble you. I want to explain that I felt lonely when I read through your letter to me. I was very happy to see the letter, but when I had read it I knew nothing further about you. You wrote me as if I were an old grandmother and not a friend. You closed your face to me. Is it true, have I offended you? If so, excuse me, forgive me, please. I did not want to offend and do not wish to. But I am coarse and stupid, especially in Russian. But perhaps you don't want my friendship, - it is of course your business, and I can do nothing. But I want you to understand me and know what I think, and not drop me without knowledge of my thoughts.

Another matter bothers me. I have been sending you letters from fine people who wrote me saying that I am good in that I gave you a place to live and was a friend to you. In the letters there was also money for you. I wanted for you to see who the money was from, and see how kind people are. But don't think that I consider that I have done anything for you especially, nor that it is necessary for you to be grateful. Certainly not. Such thoughts interfere with friendship and also are not true. How many times have I said when you were here, that I was giving nothing more than I received. You never understood how useful it was to me to speak Russian every day. Also, I was alone at home, and it was very pleasant to speak and a hat with you in the evening and especially pleasant to have companionship. You know that I received no more money from Michael while you lived here, but we had no difficulties with money.

I want simply to know, Marina, how you are, what you think, feel. But of course it is your business with whom you talk and about what. Is it not so?

Sincerely,

Ruth

enclosed: Recipes (in English) for:

Meat Loaf
Macaroni and Cheese
Noodles and Tuna Fish

(This letter was taken to 11611 Farrar and handed in at the door to Mrs. Martin (about 1:00 p.m. Dec. 27th) along with letters containing contributions to Marina. That day I also took Marina's hair dryer, a package of condiments and other sundries belonging to her found since Mr. Martin, Mr. Thorne and Mr. Robert Oswald came to my house to get the bulk of Marina's things. I also took a package which had come addressed to me and which I had opened and which contained things for Marina. (over..)

TOP SECRET

Mrs. Martin consulted with Mr. Jamison within the house and told me through the door that they could not accept the package, that it should go via the post office annex. I had not had an opportunity to explain that the package was open and the contents known to me. It didn't occur to me until later that they may have thought the contents could be harmful, and in any case I didn't want to press, and simply took the package back home with me that day. I sent it later, as I had been sending other things to Marina via the Irving police.)

TOP SECRET

PAINE (RUTH) EXHIBIT No. 277—Continued

TOP SECRET

December 28, 1963

Dear Marina,

They say that it is your choice to speak with someone or not to speak. That is, if you want to see me they then would give me permission to meet with you. But I do not believe this, while I have not heard it from your lips. For that reason I bother you and want a refusal from you and not only from Secret Service. I also want to know if you received the letter which I carried to Mr. Martin's home on Saturday the 21st of December at about 12:00 noon.

Your (Christmas) card to me was at the post office at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on the 21st. You wrote it after you received my letter or before? Surely before, is that not so? Did you receive from me the letter which I wrote on the 27th and brought to Martin's home on that date?

Forgive me, Marina. As I said to Michael last evening, -in general I do not try to hold friendship when it is clear to me that a person doesn't want my friendship. But in general it is possible to find out directly from a person, from his face, his words, -if he wants to talk or not. But in this situation I don't know.

Sincerely,

Ruth

In a letter to me was \$10.00 cash from: Doris P. Mowry
Box 441
Slatersville, R. I.

Very likely it is better to send a check than cash. Here is a check for \$10.00. Consider it from Doris Mowry.

(this letter stamped and sealed, but given to the hand of John Elhorne the morning of Dec. 28th when he met and talked with me in his office.)

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Translation (written Jan. 5, 1964) of notes in Russian of the original letter.)

Friday, Jan. 5, 1964

Dear Marina,

I want to invite you to come to my house to have supper or lunch on Tuesday the 7th, Wednesday the 8th or Thursday the 9th. Perhaps it is better not to plan to eat. Come when it is convenient to you. Simply, I want to see you. Very likely someone has said to you that it is better not to look upon the past. True, it is better not to hurt yourself. I don't want to speak about what happened. I don't want to look at it. Possibly, someone has said to you that it is better not to see me. Perhaps they think that I will find out and will tell where you are now living. They don't know that I am a truthful person and that if I say I will not tell something - I do not. But you know that I am honest. You can ask me not to speak about something and I will not. Not even to Michael if you prefer. But in general I don't want to know anything except that you are free, that you know your rights. At first I did not expect to see you, as I knew that Secret Service, F.B.I. wanted to ask you many questions. But is it already six weeks since the killing of the president. It is time for you to rest. Understand that I think it very important to help the F.B.I. and Secret Service as much as possible, and I have told them all that I remembered and answered all questions. I believe that you have helped them very much and have cooperated in every way. This is good, important, and helps you.

Here are some snap-shots which we took several weeks ago. On Christmas I finished the roll of film and 2 days ago received these photos. Phone me please, Marina, and say that you have received these photos, this letter with its invitation, and the letters which I wrote on the 21st, 27th, and 28th of December.

I have begun to worry, and very much want to know that all is well with you.

A kiss to you, June, Rachel,

Ruth

Enc: 3 photos of June in feeding table
2 photos of Chris at Christmastime.

(Mailed in the morning at the Grand Prairie post office addressed to her at P.O. Box 1407, Grand Prairie, Tex.)

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Translation

Friday 10th of January 1964

Marina, dear,

Last Friday (after my last letter was already at the post office) Mr. Thorne told me that he had explained to you that I would like to see you. He said that for the time being you do not wish to see me, that you have my address, my telephone number, that a few steps from you there is a telephone, that you can phone or write me when you wish.

Fine. I simply want to know your wishes. If you are not against it, I will write you regularly, and when it is convenient to you I want to speak and chat with you. You know that I have no better friend in Texas than you. I talk with Dorothy (neighbor) and Mr. Craig, but we are not close. It is not like with my friends in Philadelphia and with you. By the way, Dorothy intends to move. They are building a new home near her husband's work. Dorothy told me that if you wish to use the bassinette now -it would be fine. Very likely you don't need it, but I want you to know how kind she is. If, by chance, the bassinette would be useful to you, Secret Service can call her directly -BL 3-2766. It is not necessary to speak with me about it.

Tomorrow my mother-in-law is coming for a week. I am always glad to see her. I will write you in a week.

A kiss to you, little June and Rachel

Sincerely,
Ruth

Here is a translation of this letter for Secret Service if they wish to know what I have written you. Mr. Thorne told me that a translator is with you little now.

(Mailed to P.O. Box 1407, Grand Prairie)

TOP SECRET

PAINE (RUTH) EXHIBIT No. 277—Continued

Translation:

TOP SECRET

2515 West 5th Street
Irving, Texas
Jan. 23, 1964

Dear Marina,

My mother-in-law has already returned home last Sunday, and her husband with her. He arrived here on Thursday. It was very pleasant to see both of them, but on Monday I slept for a long time!

I requested a new Sears Roebuck catalog for you (Spring-Summer). I have it here at home. I also have some glass (baby) bottles and your bath powder. If you wish these things say so, and I will bring them to Martin's home or to Thorne's office, whatever is more convenient. But perhaps we will soon see each other. I hope so. I think that after you have seen President's Johnson's Commission you can see me more easily. Is that so? I would like it very much if you and June (and of course Rachel) could come here to celebrate June's birthday. The fifteenth will be on Saturday, but it is better for me to do the celebration on Friday or the following Monday. I can bring you here by car if that would be convenient.

At Christmas time you wrote me "Write if you feel like it, please." I have already written to you several times but have heard nothing. Mr. Thorne told me that there is a telephone near you, that you can call me when you want to (BL 5-1628) and also can write. If another week goes by and I don't receive a reply from which it is clear to me that you have read my letters, I will send a registered letter to 11611 Farrar. I want to see your signature and know that you have yourself received and opened the letter.

Here, for the second time, is a check (in place of cash). This time the money is from:

Adda Dilts, Corresponding Secretary
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends (Quakers)
508 Danner Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Greetings to you from Ann, our neighbor who lives in back of me. Two weeks ago she asked news of you, and said "give her my regards, please." Soon after this her new daughter was born. -At 3:56 a.m., Sunday, January 12th. All are well.

I kiss you, June, Rachel,

Here is a translation into English. Consider it a lesson for you in English. The translation is without mistakes, unlike the original!

(Mailed to P.O. Box 1407, Grand Prairie)

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Marina Oswald
c/o U. S. Secret Service
P. O. Box 2089
Dallas, Texas

Monday, February 3rd, 1964

Dear Marina,

On Wednesday I spoke with Mr. Sorrels, the head of Secret Service in Dallas. He is very nice, and we talked for a long time. He advised me to write you a letter at the Secret Service post office box. I decided not to send a registered letter.

I simply want to know: Have you received letters from me written on the 21st, 27th, 28th of December and the 3rd, 10th and 23rd of January? Is it true that you can phone me when you wish as Mr. Thorne told me?

I saw your interview on television. You have learned a lot of English. From this (TV) appearance all will know (as I already know) that you are very nice, love your children and are grateful to people. It was evident, of course, that it is still difficult for you to speak in English, but all the same you explained your thoughts very clearly and answered the questions very well.

I am very glad that today will be your interview with ~~the~~ President Johnson's commission. I pray that all goes well and that you do not become too tired. After this I think it will be easier to plan to see each other.

Phone, please, Marina, when you return to Dallas. I don't understand at all why you have neither written nor phoned.

In another envelope I am sending a (little) book which is necessary to know nearly by heart in order to receive permission to learn to drive a car. I want sometime to do a translation into Russian with you if it would be useful to you. I regret that I have little practice in Russian now; such work (translation) would be useful for me.

Sincerely,

Ruth Paine

(I don't know at all how to correctly use the subjunctive in Russian.)

Here is a translation into English as I have also done for the past two letters.

TOP SECRET

1/17/64

TOP SECRET

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1964

Dear Marina,

"Welcome!" You are home at last. But terribly tired I guess. I hope that you can rest now. But very likely the newsmen will not give you peace for a while. It is good Mr. Martin can help you with this.

My mother is flying here this evening. She will be here a week.

Just the same, I want to see you if it is convenient to you sometime during the week. I would like you to meet my mother, but of course that is not important.

I am trying to live a normal life. For me this is already easy. For you, of course, it is still difficult. But perhaps you can begin to live like others now. It is necessary to expect that it is possible to live that way, and build such a normal life.

I can come by to pick you (and the children) up when it is convenient, and we can spend a day here as we did in April. I am not afraid of the newsmen. Let them ask: "Well, what happened when you saw Mrs. Oswald?" --"Oh, we talked about children as usual." I have found out that it is possible to talk with the newsmen, answer the questions, yet all the same be boring to them. That is, they find little news.

With love,

1/17/64

2515 W. 5th Street
Irving, Texas
HL 3-1628

TOP SECRET