

744-733 O-64-vol. XXII-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 26, 1963

An original passport application, executed and signed by LEE H. OSWALD, which includes a photograph of OSWALD and reflects the stamp indicating passport issued June 29, 1963, was made available to SA EUGENE C. GIES by MURRAY BELLMAN, lawyer, Legal Advisor's Office, U. S. Department of State (USDS), Washington, D. C. This original application was hand carried by SA GIES to the FBI Laboratory and turned over to SA JAMES B. CADIGAN.

The files of the USDS regarding OSWALD were made available for review by Mr. BELLMAN to SAs RALPH E. WILLIS, JR. and EUGENE C. GIES. All specimens of OSWALD's handwriting appearing in these files were photographed. The film packs containing these photographs were hand carried by SAs WILLIS and GIES to FBI Headquarters and turned over to SA CURTISS THOMPSON of the Technical Laboratory.

MEMORANDUM

May 20, 1964

TO: J. Lee Rankin  
FROM: W. David Slawson  
SUBJECT: Personal Check on State Department Files

Reference is made to the letter from Mr. Abram Chayes, the Legal Adviser to the Department of State, dated May 8, 1964 and the memorandum attached thereto. Question No. 1 in that memorandum asks the Department of State to explain the appearance of the word "NO" on the copy of a list of applicants for passports which was sent by telegram from the New Orleans passport office to the passport office in Washington, D. C., on June 24, 1963. The answer given by the Department of State is that "NO" signifies that the message originated in the New Orleans passport office and that this symbol is routinely placed on incoming teletype messages by anyone of the group of employees in the TWX section. The answer goes on to say that the placement of the symbol on this particular message opposite to the name of Lee Harvey Oswald was purely coincidental.

As a check upon the accuracy of the Department of State's statement that "NO" signifies that the message came from New Orleans and that such symbols are routinely placed on incoming teletype messages of this type, I personally made an investigation at the passport office of the Department of State this morning at approximately 10:30. The procedures I followed were:

Late in the afternoon of May 19 Mr. William T. Coleman, Jr. and I spoke confidentially with Mr. Abram Chayes, the Legal Adviser, Department of State, and Mr. Richard A. Frank, Attorney, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State, in Mr. Chayes' office. We told them that I wanted to make some kind of personal check on the above situation in a way that would give no forewarning to any employee at the Department of State who might be in a position to take action on the basis of the warning. Coleman and I explained that we did not have any reason to believe, nor did we believe, that any employee would try to do anything improper, but we were of the opinion that all possible precautions should be taken in a matter of this importance in order that there could be no question of its having been carried out correctly.

On 11/23/63 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 89-75  
by SAs EUGENE C. GIES and RALPH E. WILLIS, JR.:ddt Date dictated 11/26/63

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