

June 8, 1964

To: J. Lee Rankin

From: W. David Slawson *W.D.S.*

Subject: Senator John G. Tower's contacts with Lee Harvey Oswald

This afternoon at 4:30 by prearrangement with Mr. Roland Kenneth Towery, Press Secretary to Senator John G. Tower, I visited Mr. Towery at the administrative offices of Senator Tower in the Old Senate Office Building. After I arrived Mr. Towery called in Miss Linda Lee Lovelady, Case Worker on the staff of the Senator. In my presence Mr. Towery went through that office's entire file relating to Lee Harvey Oswald and then gave me copies of all the documents in that file. I examined the copies and am satisfied that they are in fact complete and accurate copies of the originals as shown. These copies are attached to this memorandum.

According to Mr. Towery and Miss Lovelady the events pertaining to these documents occurred as follows:

On or shortly before January 26, 1962, Senator Tower's office received a handwritten, undated letter from Lee Oswald. Miss Lovelady, whose job it was and still is to take care of matters of this nature, routinely sent Oswald's letter on to Mr. Frederick G. Dutton, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Department of State, with an appropriate cover letter stating that the Senator's office knew nothing about the Oswald affair and was referring the entire matter to the Department of State. This cover letter purported to be signed by the Senator but actually was "signed" by a machine which writes his signature. Shortly thereafter, on February 1, a Mr. Stanfield in the Department of State telephoned the Senator's office and was referred to Miss Lovelady. Miss Lovelady made a memorandum of Mr. Stanfield's call, and she stated that to the best of her recollection that memorandum fairly summarizes the contents of that call.

Subsequently, the Senator's office received a letter from Mr. Dutton dated February 9, 1962, enclosing copies of the correspondence containing the most recent information the Department of State had received from its Moscow Embassy regarding Lee Harvey Oswald. The letter from Mr. Dutton stated that if Senator Tower wished to be kept informed of further developments regarding Mr. Oswald, an officer familiar with the case could be reached on Code 182, extension 5340. Miss Lovelady told me that neither she nor, to her knowledge, anyone else in the Senator's office, specifically including the Senator, ever had anything further to do with the Oswald case or ever contacted the officer at Code 182, extension 5340 with regard to

the matter. Furthermore, Senator Tower was not even aware of the Oswald matter and took no part in the actions of his office in the matter.

Miss Lovelady and Mr. Towery told me that the foregoing disposition of the letter from Oswald was completed routinely and differed in no way from how that office handles other matters of a similar nature. They also told me that the file shown me and the descriptions of the actions taken in respect to it constitute the entire dealings with or concerning Lee Harvey Oswald undertaken by the Senator's office except for two post-assassination matters. The first of these concerns the attached document dated November 22, 1963, and entitled, "Re: Correspondence of Lee H. Oswald." It is a statement prepared for the press on November 22, 1963. The history of this is that as soon as Oswald's name was mentioned in connection with the assassination on radio and television Miss Lovelady remembered that the Senator's office had something to do with him in the past and, after an immediate file search, a statement to the press along the lines shown in this document was made. The second matter concerning Oswald that occurred after the assassination is some correspondence with the Secretary of State for the purpose of clearing the Senator from some wild charges that had been made in the foreign and domestic press to the effect that he facilitated Oswald's obtaining a repatriation loan from the Department of State or otherwise helped him to return to the United States. Such charges have no basis whatever in fact, according to Towery and Lovelady.

*W. David Slawson*  
W. David Slawson

Attachments

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058—Continued

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SENATOR JOHN G. TOWER

NOVEMBER 22, 1963

RE: CORRESPONDENCE OF LEE H. OSWALD

- 1) Oswald wrote to office of Senator Tower in January, 1962, per attached. (Oswald letter from Russia is undated.)
- 2) Oswald letter was sent to State Department. State reply to Senator Tower shown in attached correspondence and in memo of phone call by State.
- 3) State advised that the Senator not become involved in the case and at no time did the Senator correspond with Oswald.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058—Continued

Senator John G. Tower  
Washington, D.C.

Lee H. Oswald  
UL KALININA 4-24  
MINSK,  
U.S.S.R.

Dear Senator Tower;

My name is Lee Harvey Oswald, 22, of Fort Worth up till October 1959, when I came to the Soviet Union for a residential stay. I took a residential document for a non-Soviet person living for a time in the U.S.S.R. The American Embassy in Moscow is familiar with my case since July 20<sup>th</sup> 1960, I have unsuccessfully applied for a Soviet Exit Visa to leave this country, the Soviet refuse to permit me and my Soviet wife, (who applied at the U.S. Embassy Moscow, July 8, 1960 for immigration status to the U.S.A.) to leave the Soviet Union. I am a citizen of the United States of America (passport No. 1733242, 1959) and I beseech you, Senator Tower, to rise the question of lobbying by the Soviet Union of a citizen of the U.S., against his will and expressed desire.

Yours Very Truly,  
Lee H. Oswald

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058—Continued

LEE H. OSWALD

Mr. Tower of State

COPY

January 25, 1962

Mr. Frederick G. Dutton  
Assistant Secretary for  
Congressional Relations  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dutton:

Enclosed is correspondence I have received from Lee H. Oswald relating to apparent efforts on his behalf to return to the United States, along with his wife who is apparently a Soviet citizen.

I do not know Mr. Oswald, or any of the facts concerning his reasons for visiting the Soviet Union; nor what action, if any, this government can or should take on his behalf.

Quite obviously his inquiry should have been addressed to the Executive Branch. For this reason, I am forwarding this correspondence to you for whatever action the Department may consider appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

John G. Tower

JGT/LL

Enclosure

COMMISSION TRUE COPY

TRUE COPY  
JAN 26 1962

January 26, 1962

Mr. Frederick G. Dutton  
Assistant Secretary for  
Congressional Relations  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

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Sincerely yours,

John G. Tower

JGT/LL

Enclosure

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058—Continued

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

2/1/62

Received a call from Mr. Stanfield in Dept. of State regarding request of Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald to return to U.S. from U.S.S.R.

On November 2, 1959, Mr. Oswald swore to the following affidavit:

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic" He requested that his American citizenship be revoked.

He now wishes to return to U.S. with his Soviet wife, who is pregnant.

His mother lives in Vernon and is unable to pay for his return--state dept. will probably finance this on a loan basis.

Senator should not become involved in such a case--therefore State will report to us the course which they follow regarding Lee Harvey Oswald

Linda

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058--Continued

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REPRODUCED BY  
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February 9, 1962

Dear Senator Tower:

We enclose for your information copies of correspondence containing the most recent information we have received from our Embassy at Moscow regarding the case of Lee Harvey Oswald, about whom you wrote me on January 26, 1962.

The correspondence sent to you by Mr. Oswald is being returned. Should you wish to be kept informed of further developments regarding Mr. Oswald an officer familiar with the case may be reached on Code 182, extension 5340.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick G. Dutton  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

1. From Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald.
2. To Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald dated July 24, 1961.
3. From Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald dated January 5, 1962.
4. To Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald dated January 15, 1962.

The Honorable  
John G. Tower,  
United States Senate.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058--Continued

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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American Embassy  
Moscow, USSR  
July 24, 1961

January 5, 1962

Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald,  
Ulitsa Kalinina,  
House 4, Apartment 24,  
Minsk, USSR.

Dear Mr. Oswald:

We have received your letter of July 15, 1961, in regard to your desire to return to the United States with your wife and to your application for Soviet exit visas.

You will recall that further action on your petition for nonquota status for your wife is pending the receipt from you of a copy of your marriage certificate. One copy is sufficient for this purpose, but others will be required later and so I suggest that you obtain three official copies at the same time.

Very truly yours,

John A. McVickar  
American Consul

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to inform the Embassy of the expiring of my former document of residence in the USSR: dlya lits bez grashdanstva N. 311479 expiration date January 4, 1962, and the granting of a new document; vid na zhitelstvo dlya Inostranets AA 549666, expiration date, July 5, 1962.

As I have already informed the Embassy, exit visas for myself and my wife have already been granted. I can have mine at anytime, but it will be good for 45 days only. Since I and my wife wish to leave the USSR together, I shall delay requesting my visa until such time as documentation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and the American Embassy is completed on my wife.

I'd like to be sure we can leave as soon as all documents are finished since there will be an addition to the family in March.

I would like to make arrangements for a 1 an from the Embassy or some organization for part of the plane fares. Please look into this and notify me

Yours truly,

/s/ Lee H. Oswald

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058--Continued

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058--Continued

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**COPY**  
 THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
 OFFICE  
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy  
 Moscow, USSR  
 January 15, 1962

Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald,  
 Ulitsa Kalinina,  
 House 4, Apartment 24,  
 Minsk, USSR.

Dear Mr. Oswald:

Your letter of January 5, 1962, was received at the Embassy on January 11. It obviously crossed my letter of January 5 which I presume you have received by now.

On January 13, the Embassy received official notification from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the issuance of an exit visa to your wife valid until December 1, 1962. In order to proceed with her documentation for a U.S. immigrant visa, there is enclosed Form FS-497 which she should complete and return to the Embassy at her earliest convenience.

As you were informed by my letter of January 5, there are several other documents connected with your wife's immigrant visa application which are still lacking. As far as the Embassy is aware, the petition which you filed to classify your wife's visa status has not yet been approved by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Moreover, evidence required by law to show that your wife will not become a public charge in the United States has not been presented to the Embassy. One possibility, in this regard, would be for your mother or some other close relative in the United States to file an affidavit of support in your wife's behalf. Until these documentary requirements are satisfied, the Embassy will not be able to take final action on your wife's visa application.

In view of these circumstances, you may wish to reconsider your decision to defer your departure until Mrs. Oswald's documentation is complete, particularly inasmuch as it may

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058—Continued

**COPY**

-2-

prove difficult to provide the necessary financial support evidence while you are still in the USSR. Please inform us of your intentions in this matter.

The question which you raise of a loan to defray part of your travel expenses to the United States can be discussed when you come to the Embassy.

We have made note of the fact that you have been issued a new Soviet residence document which will expire on July 5, 1962. We have also noted that Mrs. Oswald is expecting a baby in March.

Very truly yours,

Samuel C. Wise  
 American Consul

Enclosure:

Form FS-497

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1058—Continued