

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum.

TO : Assistant District Director for Investigations  
Washington, D.C. DATE: January 16, 1962

FROM : Samuel M. Reichman, Investigator  
Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT: Dallas A12 531 002; LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Visa Petitioner for wife,  
MARINA N. OSWALD.

Following from files of the Passport Office:

- ✓ A memo of December 26, 1961 to the Office of Security, Department of State, indicated:

"Mr. Oswald attempted to renounce United States citizenship but did not, in fact, renounce United States citizenship. Our determination on the basis of the information and evidence presently of record is that Mr. Oswald did not expatriate himself and remains a citizen of the United States."

The rather voluminous file indicated that on October 31, 1959, LEE HARVEY OSWALD appeared at the Embassy in Moscow to renounce citizenship, stating he applied for Soviet citizenship following entry in USSR from Helsinki, October 15. He said action contemplated two years, main reason "I am a Marxist". The Consul reported attitude arrogant, aggressive; that Oswald stated had offered Soviets any information he had acquired as enlisted radar operator. Consul reported in view of another case, they proposed delaying executing renunciation until Soviet action known or Department furnished advice.

In a follow up to the telegram of October 31, 1959, above mentioned, on November 2, 1959 The Embassy at Moscow reported that OSWALD had presented his passport and a signed, undated handwritten statement, reading: (misspellings as in original). "I Lee Harey (cg) Oswald do hereby request that my present citizenship in the United States of America, be revoked.

"I have entered the Soviet Union for the express purpose of applying for citizenship in the Soviet Union, through the means of naturalization.

"My request for citizenship is now pending before the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

"I take these steps for political reasons. My request for the revoking of my American citizenship is made only after the longest and most serious considerations.

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

The Embassy reported Oswald stated he had contemplated the action for about two years before his discharge from the Marines; that his appearance was competent; that he was aggressive, arrogant, and uncooperative; did not wish to waste time in discussing questions, etc. being contemptuous of any efforts in his interest, making known he wanted no advice from Embassy; that he knew the provisions of U.S. law on loss of citizenship; in short, displayed all airs of a new sophomore party-liner.

Oswald gave as "principal reason" for decision "I am a marxist", but declined any further elaboration. However, at one point he alluded to hardships of his mother as a "worker" but admitted he had never held a job, entering Marines directly from junior year at high school. He claimed his service in Okinawa and elsewhere "gave me a chance to observe 'American imperialism.'" He refused to discuss his family beyond stating he was not married, and had a mother in Texas. He offered the information he had been a radar operator in Marines and had voluntarily stated to Soviet officials that as a Soviet citizen he would make known to them such information concerning the Marine Corps and his specialty as he possessed. He intimated he might know something of special interest. It was stated Oswald was presently in a non-tourist status at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow, awaiting action by the Soviets on his citizenship application; that as his Soviet visa and militia registration expired October 22, 1959, he was potentially in a technically illegal residence status with tacit consent of Soviets.

The Embassy proposed to delay action to execute an oath of renunciation, as set forth in their telegram of October 31, 1959.

The Embassy at Moscow, on November 7, 1959, reported receipt of a letter from Oswald, dated November 3, 1959,

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requesting his citizenship be revoked; that his legal right was refused in his appearance on October 31, and he wished to protest such action and the conduct of the consular officer; that his application for Soviet citizenship was pending, and if accepted, he would request his government to lodge a formal protest regarding the incident. The Embassy reported they had advised Oswald by mail of his right to renounce citizenship, such renunciation in manner prescribed by law being valid, and that he might appear on any normal business day and request documents be prepared.

On December 1, 1959, the Passport Office indicated Oswald had departed from Metropole Hotel, whereabouts unknown; that no information known whether Soviet citizenship acquired.

On March 28, 1960, the Passport Office advised Moscow unless and until the Embassy received information or evidence upon which to base a certificate of loss, there appeared to be no further action possible.

On February 28, 1961, the Embassy at Moscow reported a letter received from Oswald, postmarked Minsk, February 5, and another, Moscow, February 11, indicating he was requesting return of passport and desired to return to the United States if they could come to an agreement re dropping any legal proceedings; that if so, then, he would be free to ask the Russians to allow him to leave; that the Russians at no time had insisted he take up Russian citizenship; that he was living there with non-permanent type papers for a foreigner; that he hoped in recalling the responsibility he had to America, that the Embassy remember theirs in doing everything they could to help him since he was an American citizen.

I am not furnishing information from voluminous exchange of correspondence, etc. because it is not felt necessary. However, in an instruction of April 13, 1961, the Passport Office advised Moscow if and when Oswald appeared, he should be questioned concerning his residence in Russia and possible commitment of any acts of expatriation, and if satisfied he had not expatriated himself in any manner and if evidence presented he had arranged to depart from Russia to travel to the United States, passport might

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be delivered, after being rendered valid for direct return to the United States. The Passport Office was not in a position to advise Oswald whether upon his return to the United States he might be amenable to prosecution for any possible offences committed in violation of the laws of the United States or of any of its states.

The Passport Office has furnished us the enclosed copy of Despatch No. 29 of July 11, 1961, from the Embassy at Moscow, concerning the citizenship and passport case of LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

In referring to the despatch No. 29, of July 11, 1961, the Passport Office advised they concurred in the conclusion there was no available information and/or evidence to show Oswald had expatriated himself under pertinent laws of the United States. Renewal of passport, issued September 10, 1959, was authorized, if no adverse reason was known, to take place upon presentation of evidence he needed the renewal in connection with efforts to return to the United States. It was added the Embassy might perform citizenship function for Oswald, at its discretion, as referred to in final paragraph of despatch. Additionally, the Passport Office stated renewal should be limited to passport needs, and passport should be made valid for direct return to the United States to be delivered personally.

A despatch from Moscow of October 13, 1961 indicated Oswald was having trouble obtaining Soviet exit visas for himself and Soviet wife, and that they had been subject to increasing harassment in Minsk. The Embassy advised Oswald it had no way of influencing action on exit visas, and that the question of passport renewal could be discussed with him personally at the Embassy.

Attention is invited to the memo of December 26, 1961 from Passport Office to the Office of Security, State Department, quoted in the first portion of this report.

It is presumed you have F.B.I. reports concerning Oswald.

TO: Officer in Charge, Dallas, Texas.

FROM: E.A. Jungbans, Asst. District Director for Investigations  
Washington, D.C.

Forwarded

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