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Date 12/5/63

it would often leave what it had with the village people because of their lack of food. He spoke of having even left the food he had brought with him from town. In connection with the hunting party, he mentioned that they had only shotguns, for pistols and rifles were prohibited by Russian law.

Some details of village life he said that there was a radio speaker, even in huts where there was no running water or electricity. The speaker was attached to a cord that ran back to a common receiver. Thus, the inhabitants of the hut could never change stations or turn off the radio. They had to listen to everything that came through it, day or night. In connection with radios, he said that there was a very large radio-transmission tower that was larger than anything else in Minsk.

With regard to the factories, factory meetings were held which all had to attend. Everyone attended willingly and in a good frame of mind. Voting came up for discipline and voting, but no one ever voted no. The meetings were, in a sense, formalities. If anyone did not attend, he would lose his job.

Mr. Oswald said that he had met his wife at a factory social.

The workers, he said, were not against him because he was an American. When the U-2 incident was announced over the factory radio system, the workers were very angry with the United States, but not with him, even though he was an American.

He raised the points that he disliked capitalism because its foundation was the exploitation of the poor. He was disappointed in Russia because the full principles of Marxism were not lived up to. The gap between Marxist theory and Russian practice disillusioned him with Russian communism. He said, "Capitalism doesn't ^{attract} appeal by law but not actual reality."

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No 2679—Continued

WILLIAM J. VANDEN NEUVEL, President, International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, United States Department of Justice building, Room 4125, Washington, D. C., made available the IRC file on LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

Four pertinent communications contained in this file are herewith set forth verbatim:

"LEE H. OSWALD
Kalifornia St. 4, Apt. 24
Minsk, U.S.S.R.
January 26, 1962

"International Rescue Committee
215 Park Ave. South
New York, N. Y.

"Dear Sirs,

"I'd like to request your aid in helping myself and my wife to get resettled in the U.S.A. I am a citizen of the United States. I have lived in the Soviet Union since October 1959. My wife is a Soviet citizen, born in the USSR in 1941.

"She has been classified under the immigration act of the United States and is eligible to enter the U.S.A. as my wife, for permanent residence.

"However, in making the move, it incurs money expenses and inconveniences, this is where your fine organization can help.

"Since July 1961 I and my wife have been working and waiting to get Soviet exit visa's to leave the Soviet Union for the U.S.A. After all this time our visa's have finally been granted, thank God, but our troubles are not finished, only if your organization steps in.

On 12/5/63 at NYC File # NY 105-38431
by SA JOHN D. HURLEY, JR./eah Date dictated 12/5/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2680

NY 105-38431

"I would direct you to contact the American Embassy, Moscow, U.S.S.R. for information in regards to our case, a sum of \$1000. is necessary.

"Our need is urgent, please render all assistance you can.

"Sincerely,

"/s/ Lee H. Oswald "

"January 22, 1962

"Mrs. Helen Harwell
Executive Secretary
American Red Cross
Milbarger County Chapter
Box 1766
Vernon, Texas

Re: Lee Harvey OSWALD

"Dear Mrs. Harwell:

"Since we had a call from the State Department on Mr. Oswald's case, your communication of January 14th did not come as a surprise. However, since we are a refugee agency which is usually not concerned with the problems of American citizens who need funds to return home, I'm afraid I will need some additional information before I can submit Mr. Oswald's request to our Finance Committee. Even then the outcome is dubious.

"What we would need is:

"1. Some background information on Mr. Oswald, why

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2680-Continued

NY 105-38431

"he is in the Soviet Union and what are the salient features of his case.

"2. His wife's personal data. I presume she is a Soviet citizen.

"3. The name and address of the person to whom Mr. Oswald is destined in Texas and especially why this person cannot assume the responsibility for the transportation expenses.

"If Mr. Oswald's case has meritorious features, I also wonder whether some funds could not be obtained from local civic groups and why the State Department would not assume the responsibility for his repatriation, if not for the travel expenses of his wife.

"We are a strongly anti-Communist organization and it does not happen very often that we have appeals for help from behind the Iron Curtain, let alone from the Soviet Union. You will therefore appreciate, I'm sure, our concern for the specifics of this unusual case.

"Sincerely yours.

"CS:ma
CC: J.H.
W.V.H.

"Charles Sternberg
"Director
"Resettlement Department"

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2680-Continued

NY 105-38431

"TRUE COPY
"THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"American Embassy,
"Moscow, USSR,
"December 14, 1961

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

"Dear Mr. Oswald:

"I refer to your letter of December 1, 1961, in which you raise a question regarding your application for an exit visa and your Soviet documentation.

"It is the Embassy's view that, since you are not considered a Soviet citizen by the authorities in this country, you are entitled to receive a Soviet exit visa upon presentation of a valid foreign national passport. Regarding the latter, as we have indicated to you before, we can take up the matter of renewing your expired American passport upon your next personal appearance at the Embassy.

"It further appears to us that your right to an exit visa will not be affected by your acceptance of an extension of your present Soviet documentation, which is after all, Prima facie evidence that you are not regarded here as a SOVIET citizen.

"If you intend to press your own individual application for a Soviet exit visa and are prepared to depart

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2680—Continued

NY 105-38431

"as soon as you receive it, I suggest that you come to this Embassy at your earliest opportunity to see about renewal of your expired American passport.

"Sincerely yours,

"Joseph B. Norbury
"American Consul

"/s/ Mrs. Helen Harwell
Executive Secretary
American Red Cross"

"Jan.13,1961

"International Rescue Committee
251 Park Avenue South
New York N.Y.

"Gentlemen:

"All outstanding documentation has already been resolved. We only need the money in the \$300.00 , For two tickets to New York and from New York to Texas. For further information contact the American Embassy, Moscow USSR.

"At this writing my wife has been granted non-quote immigration status for entrance into the United States, and both of us have received Soviet exit visas to leave the Soviet Union.

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2680—Continued



DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTIONS

Field 25

(Security Classification)

FOR DC USE ONLY

NO.: A-127, February 1, 1961,

SUBJECT: WELFARE-MISREAPORTS: Leo Harvey Oswald

NY 105-38431

"We are in need of help and would appreciate any help that you can give us. We are expecting a baby the latter part of February.

"Lee Harvey Oswald"

TO: The American Embassy, MOSCOW

Reference is made to the Embassy's operations memorandum dated July 6, 1960 and to previous correspondence concerning the subject.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald called at the Department on January 26, 1961. She had not heard from her son, Lee Harvey Oswald, since December, 1959, at which time he was residing at the Metropole Hotel.

The Embassy is requested to inform The Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Mr. Oswald's mother is worried as to his personal safety, and is anxious to hear from him.

RUSK

(Security Classification)