

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall

DATE: 10/20/75

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

**SECRET**

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
- Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Inspection \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

Oswald first came to the Bureau's attention on October 31, 1959, when a news clipping indicated he had held a press conference in Moscow during which he advised he had applied to renounce his American citizenship and become a Soviet citizen. A check was initiated with the Office of Naval Intelligence which showed that he had enlisted in the Marine Corps on October 24, 1956, and was released to inactive duty on September 11, 1959. Subsequently, in May, 1962, State Department advised that Oswald was still an American citizen, but had become a Soviet citizen and both had exit permits to leave the USSR.

On May 31, 1962, the Bureau instructed that Dallas interview Oswald in detail upon his arrival. He returned to Fort Worth, Texas, on June 14, 1962, and was interviewed by Bureau Agents on June 26, 1962. He declined to answer the question as to why he had made his trip to Russia; he denied that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party; he claimed that he was not recruited at any time by Soviet intelligence; and had made no deals with the Soviets to obtain permission to return to the United States.

Oswald was reinterviewed on August 16, 1962, and he advised that he had made contact with the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., to advise them of his wife's current address. He declined to answer questions as to why he went to the Soviet Union stating he considered this "nobody's business."

An article in a New Orleans newspaper, August 13, 1963, indicated that Oswald had been sentenced to pay a fine

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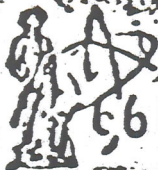
- 1-Mr. J. B. Adams
- 1-Mr. H. N. Bassett
- 1-Mr. W. R. Wannall
- 1-Mr. W. A. Branigan

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of ten dollars or serve ten days on a charge of disturbing the peace as a result of his distribution of a pamphlet for "Fair Play for Cuba." On August 21, 1963, New Orleans was instructed to ascertain the facts and determine if Oswald was engaged in subversive activities.

Previously Oswald was interviewed by Bureau Agents on August 10, 1963, during which he furnished information concerning his attempt to join the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

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Following the assassination of President Kennedy, the Bureau initiated an exhaustive investigation into the background and activities of Oswald during his life. The purpose for this investigation was to uncover his motive in the assassination and to resolve whether he acted as part of a conspiracy. This investigation developed detailed information concerning Oswald's early life, his trip to the Soviet Union, his marriage with Marina Oswald, his return to the United States, his subsequent activities in New Orleans, his trip to Mexico, and his associations in the Dallas, Texas, area. During the investigation the Bureau attempted to account for the day-to-day activities of Oswald. The investigation failed to show that Oswald was a part of a conspiracy when he assassinated President Kennedy.

The Bureau has a main file on Marina Oswald. The initial serials in this file predate the assassination of President Kennedy and all are stamped NOT RECORDED dated July 24, 1964. On a memorandum from W. C. Sullivan to Mr. Belmont dated November 29, 1963, there is a notation "Open 105 new on Marina Oswald." This bears the Records Division stamp of December 4, 1963. At the time of the assassination then, it does not appear that we had a main file on Marina Oswald.

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ACTION:

This is submitted for information purposes.

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