

Claiming that his mother was ill and needed his help, he applied for, and received, a hardship discharge from the Marines in September, 1959, and was assigned to the Marine Corps inactive Reserve; but instead of going home to his mother, he boarded a ship for the Soviet Union, with \$1600 he had somehow acquired. This was a move he had been preparing for during his last two years in the Marines. He arrived in Moscow on October 15, 1959, and told American reporters there that it was like getting out of prison. Soon after his arrival, he petitioned the Supreme Soviet for Soviet citizenship.

Although Russian officials warned him that Soviet citizenship was not easy to obtain, Oswald referred to the Soviet government as "my government" and said "even if I am not accepted, on no account will I go back to the United States."⁽²⁾

On October 30, 1959, he went to the American Embassy in Moscow to renounce his American citizenship. He told officials he was a marxist.⁽¹⁾

On November 2, 1959, Oswald formally asked the U. S. Government to revoke his citizenship. He signed an affidavit stating:

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic."⁽³⁾

Oswald was bitter because the United States Consul in Moscow suggested that he "think over" his decision to take an oath renouncing American citizenship. He turned in his passport to Embassy officials and left, saying he would let the Soviet government handle legal details when, and if, he became a citizen of the Soviet Union.

Upon hearing of Oswald's defection, the Marine Corps gave him an undesirable discharge from the Marine Reserve. When word of this reached Oswald in Russia, he wrote a letter to John Connally, Secretary of the Navy, saying:

"I shall employ all means to right this gross mistake or injustice to a bonafide U. S. citizen and ex-serviceman."⁽⁴⁾

Connally, who had just resigned to run for Governor of Texas, turned Oswald's letter over

to his successor, Fred Korth, and no action was taken.

In April, 1961, Oswald met Marina Nicholaevna Proosakova, a hospital worker in Minsk. After six weeks, they were married in a state ceremony.

In January, 1962, Oswald, still in Minsk, wrote Senator John G. Tower (Republican, Texas), claiming that he, a United States citizen, was being held in Russia against his will, and asking Tower to intercede. Tower did not intercede. He merely sent Oswald's letter to the State Department.

In February, 1962, Oswald wrote the U. S. Embassy in Moscow, asking for a passport to return to the United States: Russian authorities had not accepted his request for citizenship, and Oswald refused to stay in the Soviet Union as a resident alien.

For reasons not yet made public, the U. S. Embassy in Moscow (acting on orders from the State Department) on May 24, 1962, renewed Oswald's passport, and amended it to include an infant daughter (born in February of that year); gave Oswald's Russian wife a non-quota visa to enter the United States; and advanced Oswald \$435.71 for travel expenses back to America.⁽⁵⁾

Oswald and his family arrived in the United States at the Port of New York on June 13, 1962.⁽⁶⁾ During the late summer of 1962, he allegedly was in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, calling on non-communist refugees, seeking their help in finding employment. None would have anything to do with him, because they feared him as a dedicated communist. They feared that Oswald was trying to get information about them for the Soviet secret police — which is known to operate in the United States, under United Nations cover.⁽⁶⁾

Early in 1963, Oswald was in New Orleans, where he became active (under the name of A. J. Hidell) in the Fair Play For Cuba Committee. This organization was founded in New York in 1960 to support Fidel Castro. According to the