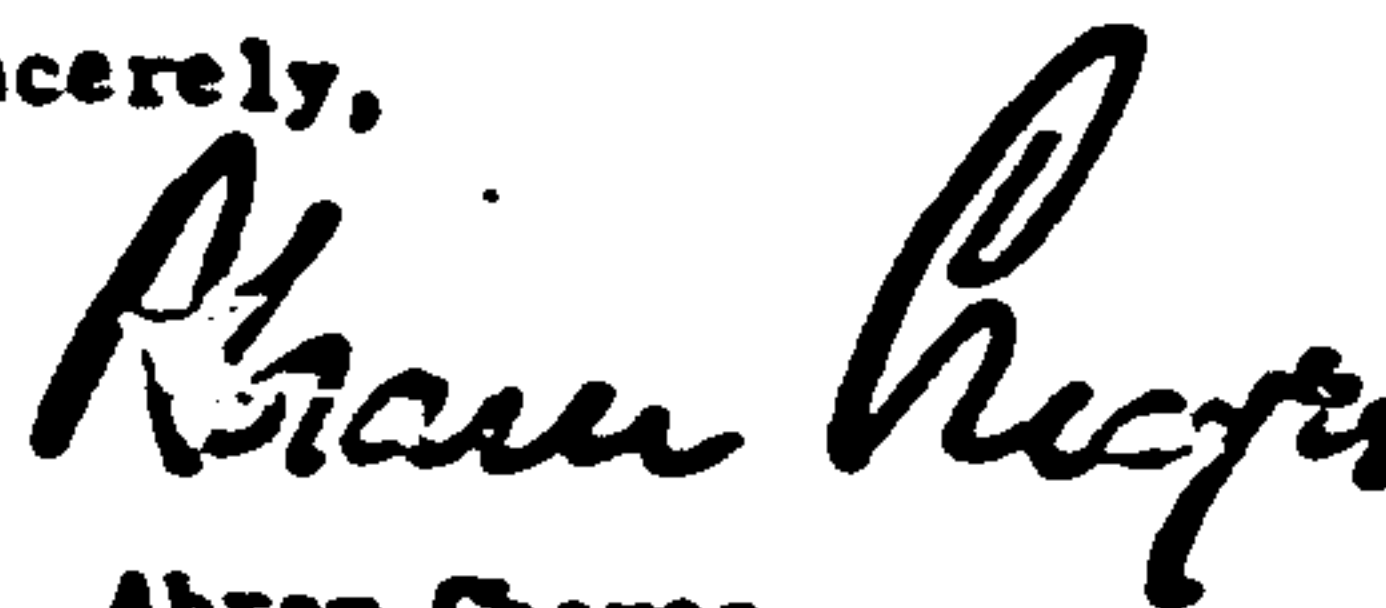


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Mr. Richard E. Snyder, mentioned in Mr. McVickar's memorandum, also made a statement by telegram dated November 27, 1963, concerning his contacts with Oswald, and a copy of this telegram was furnished to the Commission.

Sincerely,



Abram Chayes

Attachment:

Memorandum of 4/7/64  
from Mr. John A. McVickar.

CONFIDENTIAL

THE LEGAL ADVISER  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1964

SECRET

— Commission Exhibit No. 954 —

Dear Mr. Rankin:

The Department had understood that the United States Embassy in Moscow had sent last November all documents in its files pertaining to Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife. The Department recently received, however, a telegram from the Embassy in Moscow stating:

"As noted earlier (EMBTEL 1784 of November 27, 1963) Embassy pouched Department on November 26, 1963 all materials that had not been previously forwarded to Department. Embassy today, May 29, pouching remainder file which consists of duplicates or copies of items sent or received Department previously. No Oswald papers of any kind will now remain in Embassy dated prior to November 22, 1963."

This "remainder file" arrived in the Department last night. We immediately had it photostated and we are enclosing a copy. You will note that it is marked "File XIII," and that it consists of 104 documents.

The Embassy also forwarded to us two copies of Lee Harvey Oswald's July 10, 1961 application for passport renewal, together with a copy of the supplementary questionnaire which he executed. Copies of these documents are also enclosed with the covering airgram from the Embassy.

Sincerely,

*Abram Chayes*  
Abram Chayes

Enclosures:

As stated.

Mr. J. Lee Rankin,  
General Counsel,  
President's Commission on the  
Assassination of President Kennedy,  
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.,  
Washington, D.C.

SECRET

Commission Exhibit No. 956

Commission Exhibit No. 956

May 28, 1964

SECRET

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In accordance with your request, we have again reproduced the Department's files on Oswald, a copy of which we sent to you on January 21, 1964. Omitted from these files, of course, are the original documents which we sent to you on February 8, 1964 in accordance with your letter of February 7, 1964. Added to the files since January 21, 1964 have been a number of documents, copies of which we have sent you as we received them.

I am enclosing a complete copy of the files. Each document has been marked to indicate the file number, the document number, and the number of pages in the document. The symbols IV-8(16) on a document, for example, mean that it is the eighth document in File IV, and that it consists of sixteen pages. These files have incidentally now been microfilmed so that we will be able to supply additional copies to you more quickly should you wish them.

Each file contains the number of documents listed below:

<u>File Number</u>	<u>Number of Documents</u>
I	55
II	52
III	15
IV	65
V	52
VI	30
VII	6
VIII	23
IX	15
X	80
XI	27
XII	22

Mr. J. Lee Rankin,  
General Counsel,  
President's Commission on the  
Assassination of President Kennedy,  
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.,  
Washington, D. C.

SECRET

Please  
WHEN SEPARATED FROM ENVELOPE, HANDLE  
THIS DOCUMENT AS *Disclassified*

- 2 -

Commission Exhibit No. 956

Please let me know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Abram Chayes

Enclosures:

Files, as stated.

FORM NO. 19 4-1-58		DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERENCE SLIP		DATE 11/25/59
TO:				
1.	CLASS. OFFICIAL		NO.	
2.	NAME		NO.	
3.	NAME		NO.	
4.	NAME		NO.	
5.	NAME		NO.	
APPROVAL		NOTE AND FORWARD		
AS REQUESTED		NOTE AND RETURN		
COMMENT		PER CONVERSATION		
FOR YOUR INFORMATION		PREPARE REPLY		
INITIAL FOR CLEARANCE		SEE IT		
NECESSARY ACTION		SIGNATURE		
REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL ROUTING <span style="float: right;">GPO 874888</span>				
<p>We do not have extra confirmation copies of [REDACTED] → REFERRAL: STATE DEPT.</p> <p>Will this copy, made extra when not was typed originally, suffice?</p>				
FROM (NAME AND ORGANIZATION)		BOOK NO. AND Q.D.N.		
P.P.J.		59-15-25		
SIGNATURE		PAGE NO.		
B. Waterman		2847		

Commission Exhibit No. 957

Commission Exhibit No. 957

## MEMORANDUM

April 7, 1964

TO: Mr. Thomas Ehrlich, Special Assistant to the  
Legal Adviser, Department of State

FROM: John A. McVickar, Principal Officer, American Consulate,  
Cochabamba, Bolivia

SUBJECT: Lee Harvey OSWALD

This is in response to the request contained in your letter of March 27, 1964, to further develop the suggestion contained in my memorandum of November 27, 1963, that there was a possibility that (in coming to the Soviet Union and attempting to renounce his citizenship) Oswald was "following a pattern of behavior in which he had been tutored by person or persons unknown." Although I now regret that I made no notes on this even then unusual case, the following points seem to me to lend weight to my suggestion, especially considering the youth and relative inexperience of the subject:

(1) As I recall it, Oswald stated that he had come almost directly to the Soviet Union after being discharged from the Marine Corps in New Orleans and that he took a ship from New Orleans to Helsinki. Since he arrived in Moscow in mid-October, 1959 and was discharged from the Marines in September, 1959 (as I recall), he would have to have made a direct and competently arranged trip. He would have to have known the not too obvious fact that Helsinki is a usual and relatively uncomplicated point of entry to the Soviet Union (one that the Soviets might well choose for example if arranging the passage themselves).

(2) Oswald obtained a Soviet visa and apparently very promptly. This point may be important: it depends on what kind of a Soviet visa he had, and I do not know. If he had obtained a "tourist visa," he could have probably gotten it rather easily through a travel agent, but he would have had to either buy a \$30.00 per day "individual tour" or he would have had to join a group. I do not think or recall that he did either. If he had obtained any other sort of Soviet visa, probably a "regular visa", he would have had to obtain it from either the Soviet Embassy in Washington (presumably by mail from New Orleans) or from the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki. In my experience, Soviet "regular visas" (i.e. those other than issued to tourists, or to officials and diplomats) were hard to come by. Such "regular visas" were ordinarily issued only after checking with Moscow, and after some investigation of

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Excluded from automatic downgrading  
and declassification

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Commission Exhibit No. 958

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the reasons given for the visit by the applicant, usually a process of months duration. A Soviet "regular visa" issued to a person (in Washington or in Helsinki) on short notice would only be to a person already known to the Soviet authorities.

I repeat, I do not recall what sort of a visa Oswald had, but I believe that it would be significant if it indeed was a "regular visa" and not a "tourist visa." If it is still available, an examination of his passport could provide the answer. Or perhaps, Consul Richard E. Snyder, who handled the case at the time of Oswald's arrival, might remember or might have noted it in the record.

(3) Oswald evidently knew something of the procedure for renunciation of citizenship when he came into the office. This seemed a bit unusual, since it was so soon after his first departure from the United States on his first trip abroad traveling as a private citizen. (He had apparently been abroad in the Marines, but would be unlikely to have gained much experience in travel and citizenship documentation in that status.) I do not recall the way that he framed his demand for renunciation, except that it was truculent and insulting, but it seemed to me that Oswald understood that he had a legal right to renounce in the consular office and was rather insistent upon doing it.

(4) Oswald's application to remain in the Soviet Union made in Moscow was, again in my experience, relatively quickly accepted by the Soviet authorities. For example, in other "defector" cases of which I had some personal knowledge, the Soviet authorities were rather cautious about definitely permitting persons to remain permanently before they had investigated and interviewed them thoroughly. Not that the authorities were reluctant to take them in if they thought they might be useful, or even if not too useful, but they tended to be bureaucratic and cautious. Oswald was accepted and sent to Minsk only about seven days (as I recall) after his arrival in Moscow. This seems short to me, if his application in Moscow was indeed the first time his case came to the attention of the Soviet authorities concerned with these matters; but it does not seem too short, if they had known about him months before. However, even if they had already had a file on him, he would still probably have had to come to Moscow for interviewing and final approval at headquarters.

(5) At the time, Oswald seemed surprisingly confident, competent and determined about what he was doing, considering his age and experience.

(6) Oswald's expressed willingness to tell the Soviets what classified information he may have learned in the Marines doesn't necessarily argue the point that he had advance help, since he could have easily thought it up himself. The statement seems irrelevant except perhaps as a means of shocking the consular officer into prompt action.

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(7) I am afraid that I remember only very little of the actual statements in Communist terms which Oswald made to justify his desire to renounce his citizenship. I recall he said that he wanted to renounce "because he was a Marxist". I think he said bitterly that he had learned what the "class struggle" meant during his difficult youth in the U.S., and that he had learned about "capitalist imperialism" while overseas in the Marines (in Okinawa, I think). As I said in my previous memorandum, it seemed to me then that he was using words that he did not fully understand, but this does not necessarily mean that he was taught to say them...he might have read some books himself.

(8) A last point not related to my contact with Oswald in 1959: Oswald's reported statement that he had been permitted to belong to a rifle club and practice target shooting while in Minsk seems odd to me. My impression was that in the Soviet Union such a privilege would not have been usual. But this is mere speculation.

Finally, however, I think I should raise a question which may tend to offset some of the above points: If we suppose the Soviets might have arranged his trip to Russia, why would they have permitted Oswald to come to the American Embassy to renounce his citizenship? I see no answer to that, except that perhaps he was still being treated in a very tentative way and therefore being allowed to behave in a more or less "normal" fashion vis-a-vis the U.S. Government. The principal effect of renunciation would have been to make his legal return to the U.S. more difficult and it is not known to be a requirement for becoming a Communist or residing in the USSR.

I hope that the above comments are of some assistance. It seems to me that the only concrete point is the Soviet visa: its type, and its date and place of issuance.

cc: Mr. Robert I Owen, EUR/SOV, Dept of State



Commission Exhibit No. 959

COPY

XIII-92(4)

Form approved  
Bureau of Bureau No. 43-2408

PETITION TO  
CLASSIFY STATUS OF  
ALIEN FOR ISSUANCE  
OF IMMIGRANT VISA

Date Filed

Fee Stamp  
Commission Exhibit No. 959

(Read this form and the attached instructions carefully before filling in petition)

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE:	
<p>The petition is approved: Status is granted under section _____ Approval (Section 203(a)(1) cases only) expires _____</p>	<p>The petition is revalidated: Revalidation (Sec. 203(a)(1) cases only) expires _____</p>
<p>Remarks:</p>	<p>(District Director)</p>
<p>(Date)</p>	<p>(Date)</p>

(PETITIONER IS NOT TO WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE)

1. Petition is hereby made to classify the status of the alien beneficiary for issuance of an immigrant visa as: (Check one)
- The spouse, child (regardless of age), parent, brother, or sister of a United States citizen.
  - The spouse or unmarried child (regardless of age) of an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.
  - A highly skilled person, or as a minister.

Block I.—Information Pertaining to Petitioner

2. Name Leo Harvey OSWALD

3. Address in United States 713 Danport, Fort Worth, TEXAS

Address abroad (if any) Kalshin Street 4, Apt. 24, MIRA, U.S.S.R. (State)

(The rest of this block is to be filled in only by or in behalf of person filing a petition for a relative)

4. I was born October 15, 1939 (Date) New Orleans, La. (City) USA (Country)

5. If you are a citizen of the United States, give the following:  
 Was your citizenship acquired through birth in the United States, through naturalization, through parentage, or through marriage? through birth  
 If acquired through naturalization, give number of naturalization certificate and date and place of naturalization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 If acquired through parentage or marriage, have you obtained a certificate of citizenship in your own name based on such acquisition? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If so, give number of certificate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 If not, submit evidence of citizenship in accordance with instruction 3a (2).  
 Have you or any person through whom you claim citizenship ever lost United States citizenship? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If so, attach detailed explanation on separate sheet.

6. If you are a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States, give the following:  
 Alien Registration Number: A- \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date, place, and means of admission for lawful permanent residence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have you ever lost status as a lawful permanent resident alien? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If so, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Doc. H.—Information Pertaining to Aliens

1. Name of alien Varina H. OSWALD  
(First name) (Middle Initial) (Last name)

2. Date, city, and country of birth of alien July 17, 1911, Polotovsk, Archanzelskaya Oblast, USSR.

3. Relationship of alien to petitioner wife

4. If this petition is for your spouse, give the following:  
 Date and place of marriage April 30, 1957, Minsk, U.S.S.R.  
 Number of your prior marriages none  
 Number of prior marriages of spouse none

5. If this petition is for a child, is the child married? no

6. If this petition is for a brother or sister, are your parents the same as the alien's parents? no  
 If not, submit a separate statement giving full details as to parentage, dates of marriage of parents, and the number of previous marriages of each parent.

7. If separate petitions are also being submitted for other relatives, give names of each and relationship to petitioner:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

8. If this petition is for a married brother, sister, son or daughter of a United States citizen, or for a highly skilled person or a minister, give the following:  
 Name of alien's spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names and birthdates of children \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full address of spouse and children \_\_\_\_\_

9. If this petition is for a highly skilled person or a minister, give the following:  
 Alien's occupation \_\_\_\_\_; full address in the United States where services will be performed \_\_\_\_\_

10. Have you ever filed a petition for this alien before? no FO  
 If so, give place and date of filing and result: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Has this alien ever been deported from the United States? no If so, give alien registration number, reason for deportation, and place where deportation hearing was held: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Address in the United States where alien will reside 7313 Davenport, Fort Worth, Texas

13. Present address of alien Yalinina Street 4, Apt. 24, Minsk, U.S.S.R.

14. Location of American consulate where application for visa will be made \_\_\_\_\_ Moscow, U.S.S.R.  
(City in foreign country) (Foreign country)

I swear (affirm) that I know the contents of this petition signed by me and that the statements herein are true and correct.

Service No. 756  
Item No. 50  
Fees \$2.50 (equiv. 2.25 rubles)

Lee Garrey Oswald (See Instruction No. 2)

Subscribed and sworn to (affirmed) before me this 11th day of July, A. D. 1961 at Moscow, U.S.S.R.

[SEAL] My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_  
John ... Nickar  
 Consul of the United States of America  
(Signature of officer administering oath) (Title)

(If you need more space to answer fully any questions on this form, use a separate sheet and identify each answer with the number of the corresponding question.)

Commission Exhibit No. 959

PLEASE TEAR OFF HERE BEFORE SUBMITTING PETITION

## INSTRUCTIONS

All these instructions do not relate to the type of case which concerns you. Please read carefully those which do relate. Failure to follow instructions may require return of your petition and delay final action.

1. **Eligibility.** Petitions may be filed by certain persons or organizations to grant nonquota or preference quota visa classification to aliens under the Immigration and Nationality Act as follows:

- a. *By a United States citizen for specified relatives:* Except as noted in paragraph 2, a citizen of the United States may submit a petition on behalf of a spouse, children (regardless of their age), parents (if the citizen is at least 21 years of age), brothers or sisters.
- b. *By a lawful permanent resident alien for specified relatives:* Except as noted in paragraph 2, an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence may submit a petition on behalf of a spouse or an unmarried child regardless of age.
- c. *By a religious denomination for a minister:* A religious denomination, having a bona fide organization in the United States, may submit a petition for the issuance of a visa to an alien who continuously for at least 2 years immediately preceding the time of his application for admission to enter the United States has been and seeks to enter the United States solely for the purpose of carrying on the vocation of a minister of such religious denomination requiring his services. The term "minister" means a person duly authorized by a religious sect or denomination to conduct religious worship, and to perform other duties usually performed by a regularly ordained pastor or clergyman. Lay preachers, cantors, nuns, or others not authorized to perform the duties usually performed by a regularly ordained pastor or clergyman do not come within this definition.
- d. *By a petitioner for a highly skilled alien whose services are urgently needed in the United States:* A petition may be filed for the issuance of an immigrant visa to a qualified alien whose services are needed urgently in the United States because of his high education, technical training, specialized experience, or exceptional ability, if such services would be substantially beneficial prospectively to the national economy, cultural interests, or welfare of the United States.

2. **Petitions which cannot be approved.** Approval cannot be given to petitions on behalf of—

- a. A parent, unless the United States citizen petitioner is at least 21 years of age.
- b. An adoptive parent, unless the relationship to the United States citizen petitioner exists by virtue of an adoption which took place while the child was under the age of 14, and the child has thereafter been in the legal custody of, and has resided with the adopting parent or parents for at least 2 years.
- c. A stepparent, unless the marriage creating the status of stepparent occurred before the citizen stepchild reached the age of 18 years.
- d. An adopted child, unless the child was adopted while under the age of 14 and has thereafter been in the legal custody of, and has resided with the adopting parent or parents for at least 2 years. The same petitioner may not petition for more than two such children unless necessary to prevent separation of brother and sisters.
- e. A stepchild, unless the child was under the age of 18 years at the time the marriage creating the status of stepchild occurred.
- f. A wife or husband by reason of any marriage ceremony where the contracting parties thereto were not physically present in the presence of each other, unless the marriage shall have been consummated.
- g. A prospective wife or husband.

3. **Supporting documents.** The following documents must be submitted with the petition.

- a. *To prove United States citizenship of petitioner (where petition is for relative of a citizen).*
  - (1) If you are a citizen by reason of birth in the United States, submit (a) your birth certificate, or (b) if birth certificate is unobtainable, copy of your baptismal certificate under seal of the church, showing place of birth (baptism must have occurred within 2 months after birth), or (c) if birth or baptismal certificate cannot be obtained, affidavits of two United States citizens who have personal knowledge of your birth in the United States.
  - (2) If you were born outside the United States and became a citizen through the naturalization or citizenship of a parent or husband, and have not been issued a certificate of citizenship in your own name, submit evidence of the citizenship and marriage of such parent or husband, as well as termination of any prior marriages. Also, if you claim citizenship through a parent, submit your birth certificate and a separate statement showing the date, port, and means of all your arrivals and departures into and out of the United States. (Do not make or submit a photostat of a certificate of citizenship. See Instruction No. 8.)
  - (3) If your naturalization occurred within 90 days immediately preceding the filing of this petition, or if it occurred prior to September 27, 1926, the naturalization certificate must accompany the petition. Do not make or submit a photostat of such certificate (see Instruction No. 8).
- b. *To prove family relationship between petitioner and beneficiary.*
  - (1) If petition is submitted on behalf of a wife or husband, it must be accompanied by a certificate of marriage to the beneficiary and proof of legal termination of all previous marriages of both wife and husband.
  - (2) If petition is submitted on behalf of a child, certificate of marriage of the parents, proof of termination of their prior marriages, and birth certificate of the child must accompany the application.
  - (3) If petition is submitted on behalf of a brother or sister, your own birth certificate and the birth certificate of the beneficiary, showing a common mother, must accompany this application. If the petition is on behalf of a brother or sister having a common father and different mothers, marriage certificate of your parents, and proof of termination of their prior marriages must accompany this application. If either petitioner or beneficiary is a married woman, marriage certificate(s) must accompany this application.

(5) If petition is submitted on behalf of a parent, your own birth certificate and marriage certificate of your parents must accompany this application, as well as proof of termination of prior marriages of your parents.

**a. To establish eligibility of alien beneficiary for classification as a minister.**

(1) Attach a statement on official stationery regarding ordination or other authorization to act as a minister, and showing the name of each religious denomination or sect, the period of service and the addresses at which such services were performed, during the last 2 years. Such statement or statements shall be signed by the appropriate official having a knowledge of the prospective immigrant's religious service abroad and shall state the source of the official's knowledge of such service. Also submit statement explaining why services of the alien are needed by petitioner.

**b. To establish eligibility of alien beneficiary as a highly skilled immigrant.**

(1) Attach signed statement on stationery of petitioner as to the following: Name and title of person authorized to sign petition; date and place of incorporation or organization; nature of the business; average number of employees; average annual net income; description of the prospective work of the alien. The statement must also explain why the services of the alien are urgently needed in the United States and how they will be substantially beneficial to the national economy, cultural interests, or welfare of the United States.

(2) If the alien's eligibility is based solely on high education, attach certified copy of scholastic record showing period of attendance and degrees awarded. If the alien's eligibility is based on technical training, specialized experience, or exceptional ability, suggested examples of evidence which should be submitted are affidavits from independent sources, such as former employers or recognized experts in the alien's field of work, material published by the alien, or material published about him. If the nature of the position is such that a training period is necessary before a person can be regarded as proficient, state the length of such period, and submit proof that the alien has had the training for the required time.

(3) Attach a clearance order from the United States Employment Service, unless the occupation is one already determined to be needed in the United States. (Consult the nearest Immigration and Naturalization Service office for information on such occupations.)

**c. Documents in general.**

(1) All documents must be submitted in the original. If the petition is for a minister or a highly skilled person original documents will not be returned unless accompanied by photostatic copies. However, a photostatic copy accompanied by the original may be accepted if the copy bears a certification by an immigration or consular officer that the copy was compared with the original and found to be identical.

**4. Preparation of petition.** A separate petition for each beneficiary must be typewritten or printed legibly, with pen and ink (one copy only).

**5. Execution of petition.** You must sign the petition in your full, true, and correct name and affirm or make it under oath.

**a. In the United States** the petition may be sworn to or affirmed before an immigration officer without the payment of fee, or before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, in which case the official seal or certificate of authority to administer oaths must be affixed.

**b. Outside the United States** the petition must be sworn to or affirmed before a United States consular or immigration officer.

**c. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States**, either in the United States or abroad, may swear to or affirm the petition before an officer of the Armed Forces authorized to perform notarial acts under Article 136, Uniform Code of Military Justice. His wife or other dependent, abroad only, may swear to or affirm the petition in like manner.

**6. Submission of petition.** If you are residing in the United States, send the completed petition to the office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service nearest your place of residence. If you are petitioning for a highly skilled person or a minister, submit the petition to the office having jurisdiction over the place where the alien's services are to be performed. If you are residing outside the United States consult the nearest American consulate as to the foreign office of this Service designated to act on your petition. In all cases where the beneficiary of the petition is an unmarried child approaching the age of 21 years, the petition must be submitted in sufficient time for action to be completed on the petition and for the child to obtain a visa and reach the United States before the date on which he will be 21 years of age.

**7. Fees.** A fee of \$10, payable in United States currency, must accompany this petition. The fee is required for filing the petition and is not returnable regardless of the action taken. If you mail this petition, attach money order or check. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** Money order or check should be drawn on a United States bank to the order of "Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice." If residing in Guam, draw remittance in favor of the "Treasurer, Guam." If residing in the Virgin Islands, draw remittance in favor of the "Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands."

**8. Penalties.** Title 18, United States Code, section 1546, provides: "Whoever knowingly makes under oath any false statement with respect to a material fact in any application, affidavit, or other document required by the immigration laws or regulations prescribed thereunder, or knowingly presents any such application, affidavit, or other document containing any such false statements, shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both."

Title 18, United States Code, section 1426 (h), provides: "Whoever, without lawful authority, prints, photographs, makes, or executes any print or impression in the likeness of a \* \* \* certificate of naturalization or citizenship, or any part thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both."

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955 O-288171

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

Commission Exhibit No. 959