

Oswald's Letter to Brother, Showed Bitterness for U.S.

Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON—His heart filled with bitterness for his native land, Lee Harvey Oswald wrote a brother in 1959, "in the event of war, I would kill any American who put a uniform on in defense of the American government—any American."

The Warren Commission reprinted part of the letter to Robert Oswald in its massive report on Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of President Kennedy.

Oswald, who wrote the letter after going to Russia in a search for happiness, told his brother:

"In my own mind I have no attachments of any kind in the U.S. I want to, and I shall, live a normal, happy and peaceful life here in the Soviet Union. My mother and you are not objects of affection, but only examples of workers in the U.S."

BUT, the commission notes, Oswald soon realized that Russia was not utopia. A poor speller, he wrote in his self-styled "historic diary" that he had begun to "feel uneasy inside" and was thinking about returning to the U.S.

The disillusioned Marxist wrote: "As my Russian improves, I become increasingly concious (sic) of just what a society (sic) I live in. Mass gymnastics, compulsory afterwork meetings, usually political information meeting... I am starting to reconsider my disire (sic) about staying... I have had enough."

The commission said Oswald's decision to return to the U.S. with his Russian-born wife had "highly unsettling" psychological effects upon the former Marine.

THE COMMISSION'S report comments:

"It should be remembered that he was not yet 20 years old when he went to the Soviet Union with such high hopes and not quite 23 when he returned bitterly dis-

appointed. His attempt to renounce his citizenship had been an open expression of hostility against the U.S. and a profound rejection of his early life.

"This dramatic break with society in the U.S. now had to be undone. His return to the U.S. publicly testified to the utter failure of what had been the most important act of his life."

Since Oswald had rejected both capitalism and communism, the report continued, he had placed himself in a situation "in which he could not live with satisfaction in either the U.S. or Russia."

OSWALD grew increasingly irritable, the report noted. His wife left him, but returned after two weeks.

Then the future assassin became interested in Cuba, where Fidel Castro had gained power and was espousing Marxism.

"On June 24, 1963, he applied for a new passport and in late June or early July told his wife that he wanted to return to the Soviet Union with her," the commission related. "She said he was extremely upset, very unhappy and that he actually wept when he told her that."

But, the commission said, a letter which Oswald sent to the Soviet Embassy without his wife's knowledge indicates that he intended to go to Cuba when she returned to her native land.

MRS. OSWALD told the commission she felt that "his basic desire was to get to Cuba by any means" and even went so far as to suggest that she help him hijack a plane, but gave up that scheme when she refused.

The commission said its investigators learned that Oswald "became greatly agitated" when the Cuban embassy in Mexico City refused to grant him an immediate visa to enter Cuba and "engaged

in an angry argument" with the Cuban consul.

"Oswald must have been thoroughly disillusioned when he left Mexico City on Oct. 2, 1963," the commission said. "... Now there appeared no chance to get to Cuba, where he had thought he might find his Communist ideal..."

"It should be noted that his interest in Cuba seems to have increased along with the sense of frustration which must have developed as he experienced successive failures in his jobs, in his political activity, and in his personal relationships.

"In retrospect, his attempt to go to Cuba or return to the Soviet Union may well have been Oswald's last escape hatch, his last gambit to extricate himself from the mediocrity and defeat which plagued him throughout most of his life."

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