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My Values Different, Defector Told Mother

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BY LES SPROTHER.

Lee Harvey Oswald, 20, the Fort Worth ex-Marine who defected to the Communists, wrote his mother a letter before he set sail for Russia but failed to tell her the destination, she disclosed Saturday.

Oswald revealed in Moscow two weeks ago that he had turned in his U. S. passport and asked for Russian citizenship. He announced there Saturday that his bid had been turned down.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, of 3616 Harley, tearfully read aloud here Saturday the letter she received from him before he left this country but said she had no idea when she got it what her son had in mind.

The letter:

"Dear Mother: Well, I have booked passage on a ship to Europe. I would of had to sooner or later, and I think it's best I do now. Just remember above
Turn to Oswald on Page 22.

Continued From Page 1
all else that my values are very different from Robert's or yours. "It is difficult to tell you how I feel. Just remember this is what I must do. I did not tell you about my plans because you could hardly be expected to understand.—Lee."

"I thought at the time he might be going to South America, but it never entered my head that he was planning on going to Russia and try to become a citizen there," she said.

"I feel very strongly that as an individual he has a right to make his own decision."

She described her son as "a bright boy," one who had to quit school at 14, but was so set on getting an education, he quit and returned three times. He quit, she said, to help earn a living.

"He finally got his high school diploma by attending school while he was in the Marine Corps," she said. He quit in the eighth grade to join the service.

The last letter she received from her son was postmarked New Orleans where he had gone, she thought, to get a job at an export-import firm. They used to live in New Orleans and he worked for such a firm.

She said Lee liked history, maps, and "deep books" as a child. He also liked to fish, taking a pole and catching a streetcar to Lake Ponchartrain when they were in New Orleans.

She said she believed Lee Harvey would probably get in touch with her or his brother, Robert L. Oswald, 7313 Davenport, now that Russia has rejected his application for citizenship.

"Lee has definite ideas. I believe God gives us a conscience and the ability to know right,

and I feel he has a right to his own decision."

Mrs. Oswald was injured in December on the job when a carton of candy struck her in the face. She hasn't been able to work since.