

11-959 SCS

March 7, 1960

Dear Christian Herter:

Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Sir:-

In October 1959 my son (age 20 yrs) Lee Harvey Oswald (serial no. 1653230) went to Moscow Russia three days after his discharge from the Marine Corp. He went of his own free will.

On Nov. 20 the news was received here and my other son wired you asking for aid but no acknowledgement of that wire was received from either yourself or your office.

I am very much concerned because I have no contact whatsoever with him now.

On Dec. 18/59 I wrote him where the newspaper said he was staying in Moscow (Metropole Hotel) and also enclosed a personal check in the amount of \$20.00.

On Jan 5/60 I received a short note on a torn piece of paper (flap off the envelope that contained it) stating that he couldn't cash the check and to please send cash as he was in need of money. I sent a \$20.00 bill the same day that I received his note. On Feb 25/60 my letter was returned to me.

It also noted a Foreign Money Transfer in the amount of \$25.00. This draft was sent to him thru my bank (against his receipt to be forwarded to my bank) but the receipt has not been received as I am particularly concerned about him.

All of this is what I read in the newspapers. He went to the U. S. Embassy there and wanted to remain in the U. S. Citizenship and had applied for Soviet Citizenship. However the Russians refused his request but said he could remain in their country as a Resident Alien. As far as I know

son is still a U.S. citizen.

I am writing to you because I am under the impression that he is probably stranded and even if he now realizes that he has made a mistake he would have no way of financing his way home. He probably needs help.

I also realize that my son might side Russia. That he might be working and be quite content. In that case, feeling very strongly that he has a right as an individual to make his own decisions I would in no way want to hinder or influence him in anyway.

If it is at all possible to give me any information concerning my son I would indeed be very grateful.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness in this matter.

Elvion
Sincerely

Mr. Marguiente Powell
1605 8th Ave
FT Worth, Tex