

Commission Exhibit No. 210

JUL 7 1960

In reply refer to
W/77L-130-Cowald, Lee Harvey

Dear Mrs. Cowald:

In your recent letters to the Department concerning the situation of your son in the Soviet Union, Mr. Lee Harvey Cowald, you inquired whether he had remained a citizen of the United States.

It is believed that the United States passport which was issued to your son on September 10, 1959 is being retained at the American Embassy at Moscow, where he presented it on October 31, 1959, indicating that he had made application for Soviet citizenship and did not wish to remain a United States citizen.

There is enclosed for your information an excerpt from the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, setting forth the manner in which United States nationality may be lost. Your attention is invited particularly to Section 349(a)(1). Should it be ascertained that your son had voluntarily obtained naturalization in a foreign state upon his own application, he would be considered to have brought himself under the section of law just mentioned. Should your son not be granted Soviet citizenship upon his application and, having remained a United States citizen, appear at the Embassy for the purpose of voluntarily fulfilling the conditions of Section 349(a)(6) of the 1952 Act, he would be considered as having expatriated himself under that section of law.

The Department presently has no information that the Embassy at Moscow has evidence of record upon which to base the preparation of a certificate of loss of United States nationality in the case of your son under any section of the expatriation laws of the United States. If such a certificate is prepared in the future by the Embassy and approved by the Department, you will be informed.

Sincerely,

John T. White
Chief, Foreign Operations Division
Passport Office

Enclosure:

Excerpt.

Mrs. Marguerite Cowald,
1605 8th Avenue,
Forth Worth, Texas.

EFT: Bisterman; wa/6/24/60

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