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XIII - 17(2)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Embassy MOSCOW

585
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 28, 1961
DATE

REF : A-127, February 1, 1961, Subject: Welfare-whereabouts: Lee Harvey Oswald

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	Commission Exhibit No. 932
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SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

Commission Exhibit No. 932

The Embassy received on February 13, 1961 the following undated letter from Lee Harvey Oswald postmarked Minsk February 5 and Moscow February 11:

*Dear Sirs:

Since I have not received a reply to my letter of December 1960, I am writing again asking that you consider my request for the return of my American passport.

I desire to return to the United States, that is if we could come to some agreement concerning the dropping of any legal proceedings against me. If so, then I would be free to ask the Russian authorities to allow me to leave. If I could show them my American passport, I am of the opinion they would give me an exit visa.

They have at no time insisted that I take Russian citizenship. I am living here with non-permanent type papers for a foreigner.

I cannot leave Minsk without permission, therefore I am writing rather than calling in person.

I hope that in recalling the responsibility I have to America that you remember yours in doing everything you can to help me since I am an American citizen.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lee Harvey Oswald

Oswald's present address as given on the envelope and in his letter is: Ulitsa Kalinina, House 4, Apartment 24, Minsk. The Department may wish to transmit this address to Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. It would presumably fulfill the requirement in paragraph three of the Department's referenced Airgram.

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The Embassy is writing to Oswald and suggesting that he come personally to the Embassy for an interview on which to base a decision concerning the status of his American citizenship. Oswald's reference in his letter to his being unable to leave Minsk without permission may indicate that he desires to come to the Embassy, in which case an invitation from the Embassy may facilitate his traveling to Moscow. The Embassy would as a last resort, if the Department found no objection and provided the Embassy were reasonably sure that Oswald had not committed an expatriating act, return his American passport to him by mail for what help this may be in facilitating his application for a Soviet exit visa.

The Embassy would like to be informed whether Oswald is subject to prosecution on any grounds should he enter the jurisdiction of the United States and, if so, whether there is any objection in communicating this to him.

For the Ambassadors

Edward L. Freers
Minister Counselor

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