

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE BOSTON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DALLAS	DATE 11/24/63	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/23, 24/63
TITLE OF CASE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963 DALLAS, TEXAS		REPORT MADE BY DARREL B. CURRIE	TYPED BY pa
		CHARACTER OF CASE ASSAULTING A FEDERAL OFFICER	

REFERENCE: Retel WFO to Director and Boston 11/23/63.
ReBstel to Director 11/24/63.

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SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Extra copies of this report are furnished to the Bureau in the event dissemination to other interested agencies is necessary.

Additional copies of the FD-302 have been prepared and are available in the case file at the Boston Office. The interview with PRISCILLA MARY POST JOHNSON commenced at 11:30 PM on 11/23/63 and terminated at 1:30 AM 11/24/63 and accordingly the two dates are shown on the FD-302.

Information copies are furnished NYO and WFO inasmuch as these offices have conducted investigation previously in this matter.

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW			
COPIES MADE: 8-Bureau (AMSD) 3-Dallas (AMSD) 1-New York (Info.) 1-WFO (Info.) 2-Boston (89-43)		1734	REC.		
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100-45-PP-110 (JAN 2 1963)					
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations <i>[Signatures]</i> STAT SECT			
Agency	STATE			WFO	NYO
Request Recd.	-			2-4-64	
Date Fwd.	12-7-63			2-5-64	
How Fwd.	D-14t			Com. Kelly	
By	REL: ps	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>		

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BS 39-43

ADMINISTRATIVE (cont'd)

This case is being maintained in a Pending status in the Boston Office because requests for additional investigation is contemplated.

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COVER PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA DARREL B. CURRIE
Date: 11/24/63

~~On~~ BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Field Office File #89-43

Bureau File #:

Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

Character: ASSAULTING A FEDERAL OFFICER

Synopsis: PRISCILLA MARY POST JOHNSON, free lance journalist, had no information connecting LEE HARVEY OSWALD with assassination of President KENNEDY. JOHNSON interviewed OSWALD in Moscow, USSR, November, 1959. OSWALD complained personnel, American Embassy, Moscow, tried to discourage him from renouncing United States citizenship. OSWALD referred to Russian Government as "My Government". Stated he had become MARXIST at age fifteen; that he had never seen a Communist in his life; that Communism would replace Capitalism and that Russia would surpass the United States materially in twenty years.

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Details:

1.

Date 11/24/63

Miss PRISCILLA MARY POST JOHNSON, free lance journalist, residing at Brattle Inn, Cambridge, upon interview stated she had no information connecting LEE HARVEY OSWALD with the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

Miss JOHNSON stated she had been born July 19, 1928 at New York City. She received an AB Degree from Bryn Mawr College in 1950 and an MA from Radcliffe College in 1953 in Russian Area Studies. She stated that in 1953 she had been a Research Assistant in the office of the then Senator JOHN F. KENNEDY at Washington, D. C. She became a free-lance writer while in Europe in the summer of 1955, and from 1958 to 1960 represented the North American Newspaper Alliance in Moscow, USSR, as its correspondent.

She furnished the following signed statement concerning an interview of LEE HARVEY OSWALD in November, 1959 in Moscow after referring to her original notes of this interview:

"Cambridge, Mass.
November 23, 1963

"I, Priscilla Mary Post Johnson, make the following voluntary statement to Darrel B. Currie and James T. Sullivan who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make this statement without threats or promises of any kind and I understand this statement may be used in court.

"I reside at 48 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Mass. but my legal residence is Locust Valley, Long Island, New York. I am presently a visitor at the Russian Research Center working on two books on Soviet Affairs. I am merely using the facilities of the Russian Research Center. I am a free lance writer by profession.

"From the period beginning in the fall of 1958 to the summer of 1960 I was in Moscow as a representative of the North American Newspaper Alliance, 230 West 41st Street, New York City. I left Moscow in the fall of 1959 to cover Khrushchev's visit to President Eisenhower and then returned to Moscow in early November 1959.

On 11/23, 24/63 at Cambridge, Massachusetts File # Boston 89-43

by SA's DARREL B. CURRIE and Date dictated 11/24/63
JAMES T. SULLIVAN / mac

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

"Sometime during the month of November 1959, I heard from another American whose identity I cannot now recall, that an American named Lee Oswald was living on the second floor of my hotel, The Hotel Metropole. I was told that he was refusing to speak with correspondents, that he was anxious to defect to the Soviet Union. I decided that I would try to seek an interview with him.

"I think it was about mid-November 1959 when I stopped by Oswald's hotel room for the purpose of an interview. He agreed to come to my room later that same evening for an interview, which he did.

"He told me his name was Lee Harvey Oswald, age 20 of Fort Worth, Texas, born in New Orleans; that he had been to the U. S. Embassy in Moscow on October 31, 1959 and said 'I dissolved my American citizenship, as much as they would let me at the time'. Then he said he had not really succeeded in dissolving it but had requested it be dissolved. He said he had not been allowed to swear on oath that he renounced his citizenship and he said 'they refused to allow me to take the oath at that time, they said they would not allow me to act without confirmation of my Soviet citizenship.' He said he had relinquished his passport and the embassy officials would not act until his Soviet citizenship had been confirmed. He said the Russians had confirmed that he would not be forced to leave the Soviet Union even if the Soviet refused his request for citizenship. He said Soviet officials had told him that they were investigating the possibilities of his continuing his education at an Institute. Oswald said that at age 17 he had entered the U. S. Marine Corps and had been discharged in September 1959; that he had spent 14 months in Japan, the Phillipines, Indonesia and Formosa as a radar operator and that he finished his high school education while in the Marine Corps.

"He stated he started learning Russian one year ago along with his other preparations for coming to the Soviet Union and that he had taught himself to read and write Russian by the Berlitz methods but still had trouble speaking the language.

"He said he came to the Soviet Union on money saved in the Marine Corps. He said he would not be speaking to the press if the Embassy hadn't let people know he was there and said since they had he would like to give his side of the story; that he would like to give people in the United States something to think about. He said once the Russians had assured him he would not have to return to the United States he said he assumed it would be safe to give his side of the story. He said there had always been a possibility, up to then, that his Soviet visa would not be extended. He said that at a Supreme Soviet meeting in October 1959 no law had been passed enabling him to become a Soviet citizen. He said Soviet officials had warned him it was not his wish or even that of Soviet officials but that the overall political atmosphere would determine whether he would be allowed to become a Soviet citizen.

"He complained that the U. S. Embassy had tried to discourage him from renouncing his U. S. citizenship and said he would not return to the U. S. Embassy but when he became a Soviet citizen his government, by which he meant the Soviet government would handle the formalities of his renunciation. He was bitter at the U. S. Embassy and accused them of acting illegally.

"He said that in reply to a protest to the U. S. Ambassador on Nov. 1, 1959, he had received a letter from the U. S. Ambassador saying he was free to appear at the U. S. Embassy at any time to prepare the necessary documents for renunciation of his American citizenship.

"He said that in any event he would not consider returning to the United States; that the Russians were not encouraging or discouraging him and were not sponsoring him financially.

"He said his family and his friends in the Marines had not known of his feelings about Communism and

that he spent two years preparing and learning how he might defect. He would not identify any persons or institutions in the United States who helped him acquire the knowledge to arrange a defection.

"He said he left New Orleans on a Friday, he thought it was Sept. 19, 1959, by ship for Le Havre which took 12 days; from there he flew to Helsinki and thence by train to Moscow. He said for the past 2 years he had been waiting to do this one thing, said he had had practical experience in the world and was not an idealist completely, that he had had a chance to watch American militarist imperialism in action. He said he became a Marxist at age 15 through a study of Marxist literature; and 5 years of reading this Socialist literature and observing the treatment of minority groups, Communists, Negroes, and the workers especially - watching workers in New York and the way they are exploited - convinced him that what he had read in Socialist literature was quite correct.

"He said his decision was not emotional, that it was not set off by any sort of a fight with his wife, because he didn't have a wife, that his mother had been working all her life producing profits for capitalists.

"He said he believed that sooner or later Communism would replace Capitalism, that Capitalism is a defensive ideology and Communism an aggressive one which implants itself in every system and which grows. He said he had read Marx, Engels, 'Das Kapital' and works by American Communists which he would not name.

"He said he had had no contact with American Communists and that only through reading and observing had he concluded that Communism was best for him personally. He added that he had never seen a Communist in his life. The three decisive elements in his conversion had been (1) segregation of Negroes (2) socialist literature opened his eyes

to economic reasons for hating Negroes i.e, keeping wages low and (3) his experience in Japan and the Phillipines where the United States was hated for its militarist imperialism.

"He said he sympathized with the Communist elements in the Phillipines and their hatred of America and that Americans look upon all foreign people as something to be exploited for profit.

"He said he entered the U. S. Marines in order not to be a burden on his family.

"He said that although the Russians did not have as many material benefits as Americans, they would in 20 years through an economic system that is leaving the United States far behind.

"He said material shortcomings in the Soviet Union could not influence him to return to the U. S.; that it was the social system that attracted him to the Soviet Union and not its industrial successes.

"He found Moscow impressive, the people well off and happy with faith in the future of their country. He said material poverty was not to be seen in the Soviet Union. He called Soviet Citizenship an honor and referred throughout the interview to the Soviet government as 'my government.'

"This interview was my only contact with Lee Harvey Oswald and I have not seen him since that time.

"I have read this statement on nine pages. I understand it and it is true.

/s/ "Priscilla Mary Post Johnson

"Witnesses:

/s/ Darrel B. Currie, Special Agent
FBI, Boston, Mass. 11/24/63
/s/ James T. Sullivan, Special Agent
FBI, Boston, Mass. 11/24/63"