

CONFIDENTIAL

100-10461

BULKY

1B7

part 2

section 3

COM. EXH.  
960-909

THE LEGAL ADV  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Commission Exhibit No. 960

Commission Exhibit No. 960

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

May 26, 1964

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of March 23 I am enclosing a memorandum setting forth the Department's responses to questions 1 through 4 contained in attachment A to your letter. # 977

In accordance with my letter to you of April 17, the memorandum has been reviewed by the American Embassy in Moscow. The Embassy has informed us that it has no additional information or comments.

Sincerely,

*Abram Chayes*  
Abram Chayes

Enclosure:

Responses to questions.

Mr. J. Lee Rankin,  
General Counsel,  
President's Commission on the  
Assassination of President Kennedy,  
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.,  
Washington, D.C.

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ATTACHMENT A

Commission Exhibit No. 960

QUESTION 1

Your file reflects the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald believed that he could not travel from Minsk to Moscow for the purpose of discussing his return to the United States with American officials without first obtaining the permission of Soviet officials in Minsk, and that Oswald was reluctant to seek this permission. Only a few months after expressing his fears in this respect, Oswald traveled to Moscow with his wife and returned, apparently without having sought or received permission to do so.

A. Could the average Soviet citizen travel in this manner without first obtaining permission from the appropriate officials of the Soviet Union?

ANSWER - We understand that a Soviet citizen may buy a ticket and travel on a public conveyance without obtaining permission from Soviet officials. The passport regulations issued by the USSR Council of Ministers and dated January 9, 1962, specify that Soviet citizens "arriving for permanent or temporary sojourn or changing their place of living in localities where the passport system has been introduced must within 24 hours produce their passports for the house administration, directors of hostels, or other persons responsible for registration in order to register them with militia authorities." In a speech entitled "Strictly Observe Passport Regulations," delivered on September 27, 1962, the Chief of the Passport Section of the Kyzyl City Militia Department, Mr. Cherkashin, stated that passports are required for "all citizens of the USSR 16 years of age or over who reside in cities, rayon capitals [a rayon is an administrative area like a county], city-type settlements, or in the border zones." He also stated that residents of rural areas must obtain a passport from the militia before departing for other regions in the Soviet Union. Copies of the regulations and speech referred to above are enclosed.

Although the regulations were issued in 1962, it is our understanding that Soviet travelers have been, for many years, required to register at their place of

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destination in almost all cases, except for short trips. We also know that Soviet militia often stop automobiles and trucks traveling from city to city. The driver or some other responsible person has to show that there is some reason for the travel and a passport or some other document signed by an appropriate official must be presented.

B. Could resident foreigners normally travel in this manner without first obtaining such permission?

ANSWER - There are only a few Western nationals now living in the Soviet Union. They include an American Roman Catholic priest, an American Protestant minister, a number of correspondents, some students and technical advisers to Soviet businesses. We know that the priest, the minister, the correspondents and the students must obtain permission from Soviet authorities before taking any trips. The technical advisers notify officials of their project before they travel and these officials personally inform the militia.

C. If travel of this type was not freely permitted, do you believe that Oswald normally would have been apprehended during the attempt or punished after the fact for traveling without permission?

ANSWER - Based on the information we have, we believe that if Oswald went to Moscow without permission, and this was known to the Soviet authorities, he would have been fined or reprimanded, Oswald was not, of course, an average foreign resident. He was a defector from a foreign country and the bearer of a Soviet internal "stateless" passport (vid na zhitelstvo dlya litza bez grazhdanstva) during the time when he was contemplating the visit to Moscow to come to the Embassy. (On January 4, 1962 he was issued a passport for foreigners -- vid na zhitelstvo dlya Inostrantsa.)

The Soviet authorities probably knew about Oswald's trip even if he did not obtain advance permission, since in most instances the Soviet militia guards at the Embassy ask for the documents of unidentified persons entering the

Embassy grounds. By Oswald's own statement, the foremen at his wife's place of employment were notified that they had visited the Embassy while they were still in Moscow. The usual "enemy of the people" meetings were held, his wife condemned for her action and friends warned against speaking to her.

An American citizen who, with her American citizen husband, went to the Soviet Union to live permanently and is now trying to obtain permission to leave, informed the Embassy that she had been fined for not getting permission to go from Odessa to Moscow on a recent trip to visit the Embassy.

D. Even if such travel did not have to be authorized, do you have any information or observations regarding the practicality of such travel by Soviet citizens or persons in Oswald's status?

ANSWER - It is impossible to generalize in this area. We understand from interrogations of former residents in the Soviet Union who were considered "stateless" by Soviet authorities that they were not permitted to leave the town where they resided without permission of the police. In requesting such permission they were required to fill out a questionnaire giving the reason for travel, length of stay, addresses of individuals to be visited, etc.

Notwithstanding these requirements, we know that at least one "stateless" person often traveled without permission of the authorities and stated that police stationed at railroad stations usually spotchecked the identification papers of every tenth traveler, but that it was an easy matter to avoid such checks. Finally, she stated that persons who were caught evading the registration requirements were returned to their home towns by the police, and sentenced to short jail terms and fined. These sentences were more severe for repeated violations.

SOVIET PASSPORT REGULATIONS

9 January 1962

Citizens arriving for permanent or temporary sojourn or changing their place of living in localities where the passport system has been introduced must within 24 hours produce their passports for the house administration, directors of hostels, or other persons responsible for registration in order to register them with militia authorities. A citizen who has received a new passport must also produce it for the house administration or call in person at the passport bureau for registration. After that the new passport must be produced at the place of work for the cadre department or personnel office, where it will be stamped to show that its owner has been accepted for work.

When receiving a new passport one must see that the information about the bearer and his children below 16 years of age has been properly entered, as well as the marriage data and stamp. It should be borne in mind that all citizens from 16 to 40 years of age receive passports valid for a limited period of time. When the validity of the passport expires, the citizen should apply to the passport office for a new passport. It should be born in mind that living without a passport or registration book, an invalid passport, or acceptance for work without a passport or registration book, constitutes violation of passport regulations. Persons guilty of such violations of the passport regulations are liable to prosecution.

SPEECH BY MR. CHERKASHIN, CHIEF OF THE PASSPORT SECTION  
OF THE KYZYL CITY MILITIA DEPARTMENT  
SEPTEMBER 27, 1962

STRICTLY OBSERVE PASSPORT REGULATIONS

The Soviet passport is the only document certifying the identity of a citizen in a locale with a passport system (v pasportizirovannoy mestnosti). Possession of this document certifies that its holder belongs to the great family of the Soviet people and bears the honorable title of citizen of the USSR--the first soviet socialist state in the world. A Soviet man is proud to belong to the land of soviets where the common people are the possessors of great political and (word indistinct) rights. He gladly receives, carefully handles, and honorably bears the Soviet passport. In accordance with the statute on passports, all citizens of the USSR 16 years of age or over who reside in cities, rayon capitals, city-type settlements, or in the border zones must have a passport. Those not possessing this document are permanent residents of rural areas--excluding the above-mentioned places--and military servicemen who carry documents issued by unit commands. Upon departure to other regions of the Soviet Union, residents of rural areas must obtain a passport from militia organs at the place of a residence. Exceptions are made for individuals residing in a particular area for no longer than 30 days and for individuals leaving for sanatoriums, rest homes, conferences, congresses, official trips, and so forth. However, these individuals must obtain the appropriate certificates from the rural soviets to certify their identities and the purposes of their trips.

A passport not only certifies the identity of a citizen, but also provides him with (word indistinct) whereby he can secure employment and can travel and reside in cities and other populated places and areas of the country having a passport system. Agents of the imperialist states (and various?) criminal elements (word indistinct) strive to (word indistinct) the passports of citizens of the USSR in order to (ingratiate themselves with?) Soviet families, to conceal their true faces, and to commit infamous acts. This makes it incumbent upon the Soviet people to constantly increase their vigilance and to strictly preserve state secrets, to safeguard official and personal documents, the main one of which is the passport.



- 2 -

The overwhelming majority of citizens honestly observe passport regulations and carefully handle their passports. However, some citizens fail to comply, make blots and stains in passports, and sometimes lose them. For example, citizen Ivan Dmitriyevich (Brusov?), a resident of Kyzyl city, on 14 May 1962 submitted an application to the city militia department for the issuance of a new passport to replace the one that he had lost. This is what he wrote: "On 26 March 1962, while intoxicated, I lost my passport. I cannot explain where and how I lost it because I do not remember anything." When he lost his passport, citizen Vladimir Vasilyevich (Guzovskiy?), a resident of Kyzyl city, wrote in his application: "On 1 December 1961 I spent the night with friends. After having some drinks I became intoxicated and do not remember how I lost my passport and military service certificate." Later it was revealed that his passport had fallen into the hands of a rogue (against whom criminal charges have been preferred?).

Identical applications have been received from other residents of Kyzyl city--Viktor Petrovich Zubarev, Nikolay Denisovich (Chenko?), Nikolay Fedorovich Abramov, and others. We do not know where the passports lost by these citizens are or into whose hands they have fallen. In most cases passports are lost by citizens who are intoxicated. Alcohol, in addition to being the cause of most crimes and hooliganism, also causes individuals to lose their sense of personal responsibility and carefulness.

Organs of the MVD know of cases in which criminals, using assumed names and other people's documents, commit crimes and inflict harm on the Soviet people. Every citizen must be aware of this, be vigilant, and safeguard his personal documents, because carelessness causes harm to the state and society. Individuals are categorically prohibited from using passports as a deposit and from transferring them to other citizens. Nevertheless, despite this prohibition, the bailing of passports has occurred at the mechanization school, the musical school, and other establishments.

Under the criminal code, the forging of a passport, residing on another person's passport, and (words indistinct) entail criminal charges. In Ak-Dovurak settlement, a certain Dmitriy Piskunov, who was residing on another person's passport, was arrested and criminal charges were preferred against him. In the course of an investigation,

- 3 -

it was revealed that in March last year Piskunov had bought the passport from criminals who had stolen it from citizen (Zinovyev?). Some citizens, unmindful of the consequences, make illegal entries and corrections in their passports. Such action is also subject to criminal charges.

Great attention should be attached to the registration of passports. Citizens staying in a new place for more than three days, those changing places of residence, or those acquiring new passports must within one day present their passports to persons responsible for registration. Individuals arriving in cities, rayon capitals, city-type settlements, or populated places of rural soviet territories which are adjacent to state borders must register with militia organs within three days after their arrival. The registration of citizens is not a mere formality. In this way the population is registered and such registration helps party, soviet, and other organs to control the growth of cities and populated places, which is necessary for supplying them with foodstuffs and manufactured goods and for providing the working people with normal living conditions.

Despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of residents in Kyzyl city and the republic strictly observe passport regulations, some individuals still violate registration regulations. For example, Petr Fedorovich Prokofyev, (name indistinct), and other persons resided in Kyzyl city for a long period without registering. There have also been cases in which citizens have let into their apartments strange persons possessing no documents whatsoever (words indistinct). Administrative responsibility rests not only with the individuals who have no passports or are not registered, but likewise with owners of houses and those responsible for registration. By letting individuals without documents into their apartments, landlords grossly violate the passport regulations and act carelessly, which often costs them a great deal.

For example, in June this year Tatyana Vasilyevna Filatova, who resided on Oktyabrskaya Street in Kyzyl city, let a strange woman without documents into her apartment. This woman stated that she had arrived to join her husband who lived in Kyzyl but could not find him; therefore she needed a place to stay overnight. Filatova let this woman into her apartment. After winning the latter's confidence, at the opportune moment the strange woman collected whatever she could find and disappeared. Later she was caught and the stolen items were returned to the victim. Identical incidents involving theft in apartments also occurred to others.

Therefore, any citizen who lets a stranger into his apartment must check the latter's passport to determine whether its possessor has been checked out from the previous place of residence. Work related to the observance of passport regulations must be conducted by housing managers and custodians and commissioners of rural soviets responsible for registration affairs, as well as by supervisors of enterprises and establishments or other persons in charge of hiring and discharging workers and employees. Enterprises and establishments should employ citizens only after checking the latter's passports and registration visas in the passports. Unfortunately, many supervisors of enterprises and organizations are still failing to observe these requirements properly.

Inspections conducted by militia organs have revealed that some supervisory workers are failing to observe the passport regulations in hiring workers and employees. For example, in 1962 the republican hospital has employed several individuals who were not registered in Kyzyl and (failed to present lists for the registration of cadres?). It should be borne in mind that violation of regulations in hiring workers and employees (by an?) administration (entails?) administrative action for the first offense and discharge in case of repetition.

It is the task of all soviet, economic, and other organs, supervisors of enterprises, establishments and organizations, and the working people to constantly strengthen socialist legislation and Soviet law and order, which is necessary for the successful building of communism in our country.

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ATTACHMENT A

QUESTION 2

The files of the Department of State reflect the fact that Oswald first applied for permission to remain in Russia permanently, or at least for a long period, when he arrived in Moscow, and that he obtained permission to remain within one or two months.

A. Is the fact that he obtained permission to stay within this period of time usual?

ANSWER - Our information indicates that a two months waiting period is not unusual. In the case of ██████████ the Supreme Soviet decided within two months to give Soviet citizenship and he was thereafter, of course, permitted to stay. → REFERRAL: STATE DEPT.

B. Can you tell us what the normal procedures are under similar circumstances?

ANSWER - It is impossible for us to state any "normal" procedures. The Soviet Government never publicizes the proceedings in these cases or the reasons for its action. Furthermore, it is, of course, extremely unusual for an American citizen to defect.

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ATTACHMENT A

QUESTION 3

A. At the time that Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald left Russia for the United States was it legal and normal under Soviet law and practice for a Russian national married to an American to be able to accompany him back to his homeland?

ANSWER - The Department knows of many marriages in the Soviet Union between American citizens and Soviet citizens. Most of these involved an American citizen husband and a Soviet citizen wife. Such marriages since World War II have mostly involved American newspaper correspondents, American businessmen and tourists, and, in a few instances, employees of the American Government. In practically all of these cases the husband remained in the Soviet Union until his Soviet wife was given permission to accompany him to the United States.

In the immediate post-war period there were about fifteen marriages in which the wife had been waiting for many years for a Soviet exit permit. After the death of Stalin the Soviet Government showed a disposition to settle these cases. In the summer of 1953 permission was given for all of this group of Soviet citizen wives to accompany their American citizen husbands to the United States.

Since this group was given permission to leave the Soviet Union, there have been from time to time marriages in the Soviet Union of American citizens and Soviet citizens. With one exception, it is our understanding that all of the Soviet citizens involved have been given permission to emigrate to the United States after waiting periods which were, in some cases, from three to six months and in others much longer.

B. Was the rapidity with which Lee Harvey Oswald was able to accomplish his return and Marina's return to the United States in any way unusual?

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- 2 -

ANSWER - It does not appear to us that Mrs. Oswald's Soviet exit visa application was acted upon with unusual rapidity. On July 15, 1961 Oswald and his wife applied for Soviet exit visas. On October 4, 1961 Oswald informed the Embassy that he still had not gotten exit visas and requested Ambassador Thompson's intervention on his behalf. He related that there had been continuing attempts to intimidate his wife, apparently with the idea of forcing her to give up her plans to go to the United States. On November 1, 1961 Oswald told the Embassy that he had gone repeatedly to the Minsk officials but still had not been granted exit visas for himself and his wife. In January 1962, practically six months after the date of application (July 15, 1961), Oswald and his wife were granted Soviet exit visas.

It is difficult to generalize on the length of time required for Soviet action in such cases. There is no discernible pattern which we can find in the Soviet Government's handling of exit visa cases. The issuance of such visas is apparently subject to rather arbitrary official action. In some periods it has seemed related to the political climate between the Soviet Union and the foreign spouse's country, although this has not always been the case. In our view, for example, the issuance of exit visas in 1953 to the group of wives of American citizens mentioned above was undoubtedly part of an effort by the Soviet Government to create a favorable atmosphere between our two governments.

In the most recent case of this type a Soviet woman married an American citizen in December 1963 and received an exit visa about two months later. Such marriages cannot take place in the Soviet Union without permission of the Soviet Government. It seems probable that permission to marry in such cases is almost always tantamount to a favorable future decision to grant an exit visa since the American citizen is required to state his intention to bring his Soviet spouse back to the United States.

Since Oswald came to the Soviet Union as a defector, however, he was in a somewhat different situation. It is our judgment that the Soviet Government's granting of permission

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to his wife to leave the country was not considered a routine matter. We do have detailed information concerning another American defector, [REDACTED]. His case is somewhat different since he actually obtained Soviet citizenship and was not, therefore, classified as "stateless."

[REDACTED] was an employee of the [REDACTED] assigned to work as a plastics engineer at the American National Exhibit in Moscow in the summer of 1959. He informed the Embassy on September 30, 1959, that he had decided to stay in the USSR and work. When interviewed in the presence of a Soviet official on October 17, 1959 he said he had applied for Soviet citizenship about July, 1959 and had been notified officially that Soviet citizenship had been granted by Decree of the Supreme Soviet. He received a Soviet internal citizen's passport on September 21, 1959 and the Embassy submitted to the Department a Certificate of Loss of Citizenship covering [REDACTED] status.

On March 3, 1960 [REDACTED] informed his father he would like to return home and that he had written to the Embassy about this but had received no reply. [REDACTED] called at the Embassy on May 4, 1960, and thereafter returned to his residence in Leningrad. He applied for an exit visa on August 5, 1960 and was informed on October 24, 1960 that his application had been refused, but that he could reapply after one year.

On March 9, 1962 the Embassy received a Soviet foreign passport (i.e., Soviet citizen's passport for travel abroad) together with an exit visa for [REDACTED]. A delay ensued while [REDACTED] U.S. visa application was being processed. He was in communication with the Embassy by telephone but after the visit on May 4, 1960 he did not visit the Embassy until May 8, 1962, when he came to get his final papers. He told the Embassy during the interview that "he was not left alone" after he had informed his family by letter about his desire to return home. He left the Soviet Union May 15, 1962.

In comparison to Oswald, it took [REDACTED] a year and nine months to get permission to leave the Soviet Union. His case differs in that he had been granted Soviet citizenship and was employed in an industry, plastics, for which

EXCISIONS DENOTE REFERRALS

TO STATE DEPT.

his skills were particularly desired by the Soviet authorities. His case was also complicated by the fact that he had deserted his American wife and two children to live with a divorced Soviet woman who bore his child before his return to the U.S.

C. If possible we would appreciate a memorandum from you on the normal Soviet procedures in similar cases and the usual time periods involved, covering both emigration from Russia to the United States and emigration from Russia generally.

ANSWER - The Soviet Government is generally opposed to emigration of its citizens to foreign countries. Apparently the Soviet Government gives consideration to granting exit permits for the purpose of emigration to the United States only when the applicants wish to join members of their family.

For many years it has been extremely difficult for Soviet citizens to obtain permission to leave the Soviet Union to join relatives in the United States. In the 1930's a few such cases received favorable consideration, but it was only in the latter part of 1959 that the Soviet Union began issuing a number of exit visas in such cases. Since 1959 approximately 800 Soviet relatives of American citizens have received exit visas. This number, of course, is quite small compared to the number of those Soviet citizens who wish to come to the United States to join their relatives here.

Those who have been successful in obtaining exit visas were usually subjected to long delays before any action was taken on their applications, unlike those cases of American citizens who marry Soviet citizens while temporarily residing in the USSR.

In regard to emigration from Russia to other countries, we know that Soviet exit visas have been issued to persons desiring to join relatives in France, England, and other European countries, but we have very little information concerning the details of such emigration.



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ATTACHMENT A

Commission Exhibit No. 960

QUESTION 4

The Soviet Government issued Lee Harvey Oswald a passport which described him as being without citizenship, and he was issued a Soviet visa on a temporary, year-to-year basis. Were these procedures customary at the time Oswald was in Russia?

ANSWER - It is not possible for us to judge whether or not these procedures were "customary." Decisions in this area seem to be made without any discernible pattern. As was indicated above, non-Soviet citizens apparently receive either a "stateless" internal passport or an internal passport for foreigners. Oswald held both documents at different times.

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DEPARTMENT

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*7/21/74*  
[REDACTED]

Embassy Moscow  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lee Harvey Oswald. Is dispatch enroute? If not pouch correct and report date, pouch invoice and registration number.

For Embassy's Information Only: If Oswald insists on renouncing US citizenship Section 1979 Revised Statutes precludes Embassy withholding right to do so regardless status his application pending Soviet Government and final action taken Petrucci case.

PT/FEA-130-Oswald, Lee Harvey

PPT:Waters: bb [REDACTED]

PPT:John T. White

Clearances: LE:SOV:V. James  
in substance paraphrased by telephone

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCISIONS DENOTE REFERRALS TO STATE DEPT.

REFUSAL

1-05

Name Leo Harvey Oswald

Place and date of birth New Orleans, Louisiana Oct. 18, 1937

Place of residence ICSR

Number and date of last passport 1733742 Sept. 17, 1959

Reason for refusal May have been naturalized in the Soviet

Union or otherwise have expatriated himself.

File number 130- Oswald, Leo Harvey

Date of this record Mar. 25, 1960

Frances G. Knight

Director

OSWALD, LEO HARVEY

Form 85-833  
3-3-58

CONFIDENTIAL

66

# OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: Embassy Moscow

FROM: The Department of State

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS - Lee Harvey Oswald

Date: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Unless and until the Embassy comes into possession of information or evidence upon which to base the preparation of a certificate of loss of nationality in the case of Lee Harvey Oswald, there appears to be no further action possible in this case.

An appropriate notice has been placed in the look-out card section of the Passport Office in the event that Mr. Oswald should apply for documentation at a post outside the Soviet Union.

PT/PTA-210-Oswald, Lee Harvey  
 PPT/Bateman, [REDACTED]

PM

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1960-000100

A TRUE COPY OF  
 THE SIGNED ORIGINAL

EXCISIONS DENOTE REFERRALS  
 TO STATE DEPT.

CONFIDENTIAL

Jul 30  
X-57(2)  
JUL 20 1960

SCS: Mr. George Hazelton

FPI: John T. White

Lee Harvey Oswald in the Soviet Union.

In accordance with a recent request by telephone from a member of your office, there are attached a copy of an Operations Memorandum of March 28, 1960 from the Embassy at Moscow, the action copy of which was appropriately routed to this office, and a copy of an Operations Memorandum of May 10, 1960 to the Embassy.

Attachments: as stated

FI/FIA-130-Oswald, Lee Harvey

FPI: Elaterins vs: 7/20/60

for 6/10/60 CONFIDENTIAL

FORM DS-10 4-1-55 DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERENCE SLIP				DATE <u>7/19/60</u>		
TO:	NAME OR TITLE	ORGAN. SYMBOL	ROOM NO.	BLDG.	INITIALS	DATE
1.	<u>Mr. Medicine - for</u>				<u>CC</u>	<u>CC</u>
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
APPROVAL			NOTE AND FORWARD			
AS REQUESTED			NOTE AND RETURN			
COMMENT			PER CONVERSATION			
FOR YOUR INFORMATION			PREPARE REPLY			
INITIAL FOR CLEARANCE			SEE ME			
NECESSARY ACTION			SIGNATURE			
REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL ROUTING						
<p><u>Lee Harvey Oswald</u> <u>Conf case</u></p> <p>SCS - Miss Vann x-444 requests copy of moscow om 3/28/60 &amp; copy Dept's om 7/10/60 to embassy (atop case 2 11/1/60)</p>						
FROM (NAME AND ORGANIZATION)				ROOM NO. AND BLDG.		
SIGNATURE <u>[Signature]</u>				PHONE NO.		

Commission Exhibit No. 964

Σ-49(2) & 3-15-61

M.V. JCS -

Took initial  
Harrington

to m action Action copy.  
copy case of split action add.

of m Copy our action to  
go to JCS

1/28/6  
PPJ  
Note letter  
has been  
moved to last paragraph  
state direction  
2/19/61  
POW

Mr. Barthel will try to  
get a copy of the  
Q-127 - 2/1/61 to Moscow

X-55

In reply refer to  
NY 100-130-Oswald, Lee Harvey

JUL 26 1960

Dear Mr. Wright:

We have been informed by the Office of Special Consular Services of your desire to obtain copies of correspondence exchanged between the Department and Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, who is believed to be in the Soviet Union.

There are enclosed a copy of our letter of July 7, 1960 to Mrs. Oswald and a copy of its enclosure. This letter was in reply to the question of the son's citizenship which she had raised in correspondence received by the Office of Special Consular Services. It is understood that you are being supplied with copies of that correspondence by the office concerned.

There are also enclosed a copy of a letter of July 16, 1960 received from Mrs. Oswald and a copy of our reply dated July 21, 1960.

We hope that the enclosures to this letter will be helpful to you in your efforts to assist Mrs. Oswald.

Sincerely,



Francis G. Knight  
Director, Passport Office

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter July 16, 1960. ✓
2. Encl. ✓
3. Copy of letter July 7, 1960.
4. Copy of letter July 21, 1960. ✓

The Honorable  
Jim Wright,  
House of Representatives.

PPT:Esternant rp 7/22/60  
BW

A TRUE COPY OF  
NY 100-130-Oswald  
(P.C.S.)



AIR POUCH  
PERSONALITY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
(Security Classification)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

261.1122 Oswald,  
Lee Harvey / 3-2-61

FROM : Embassy, MOSCOW  
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.  
REF : Embassy's 505, February 20, 1961

659  
Dist. No.

March 21, 1961  
DATE

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	I N P OTHER O
	SCS-2	RAK-2	
	REC'D		
	3-28		Ci-15

X-44(2)

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

The Embassy received on March 20, 1961 the following letter from Lee Harvey Oswald postmarked Minsk March 5 and Moscow March 17:

"Dear Sirs:

In reply to your recent letter. I find it inconvenient to come to Moscow for the sole purpose of an interview.

In my last letter I believe I stated that I cannot leave the city of Minsk without permission.

I believe there exist in the United States also a law in regards to resident foreigners from Socialist countries, traveling between cities.

I do not think it would be appropriate for me to request to leave Minsk in order to visit the American Embassy. In any event, the granting of permission is a long drawn out affair, and I find that there is a hesitation on the part of local officials to even start the process.

I have no intention of abusing my position here, and I am sure you would not want me to.

I see no reasons for any preliminary inquiries not to be put in the form of a questionnaire and sent to me.

I understand that personal interviews undoubtedly make to work of the Embassy staff lighter, than written correspondence, however in some cases other means must be employed.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lee H. Oswald

Rec'd  
4/13/61  
P3/tea

RESnyder/vdb  
REPORTER

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ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R file with an endorsement of action taken.

Commission Exhibit No. 967

Commission Exhibit No. 967

OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
(Classification)

Encl. No.  
Dep. No.  
From: [illegible]

to have written to Oswald advising him that it is the position of the Soviet Government that they interpose no objection or obstacle to visits to the Embassy by American citizens in the Soviet Union and suggesting that he use the Embassy's letter in applying to the authorities in Leningrad for permission to travel to Moscow. Oswald was informed that in order for the Embassy to make a determination of his American citizenship status, a personal interview would be required at which pertinent statements could be taken from him under oath before a consular officer.

For the Ambassador:

*Edward L. Proctor*  
Edward L. Proctor  
Minister Counselor

RECEIVED

1961 APR 3 PM 4 12

PASSPORT OFFICE  
PT/FA

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Commission Exhibit No. 967

3/27/61

PJ/7EA

I-46

Mr. Kupiec:

Please note proposed  
draft to Moron, on  
which Mr. Mastertoo has  
also worked.

State Insts. do  
not go to Mrs. Bielaski.

Please note  
clearance for PJ/D.

B.W.



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SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

TO: The American Embassy Moscow

The Embassy's Dispatch No. 535 of February 28, 1961 concerning Lee Harvey Oswald has been studied with particular reference to the last two paragraphs thereof.

If Mr. Oswald certifies you that he has a bona fide intention to return to the United States and informs you of his proposed travel plans, it may be considered that he needs a valid travel document to arrange his departure from the USSR. Under these circumstances, if Oswald is unable to call in person at the Embassy and if you are fully satisfied that he has not expatriated himself in any manner, you are authorized to issue his United States passport to be valid for his direct return to the United States and effect its delivery to him by mail under proper safeguards.

The Department is not in a position to advise Mr. Oswald whether upon his desired return to the United States he may be amenable to prosecution for any possible offenses committed in violation of the laws of the United States or the laws of any of its States.

The developments in the case of Mr. Oswald should be promptly reported. In particular, a report of his travel data should be submitted if the Embassy receives information of his confirmed travel plans.

It may be added that Mrs. Marguerite Oswald has been informed of the address given by Mr. Oswald in his recent written communication referred to in Dispatch No. 535 and of his desire to return to the United States.

*not sent*

FT/FA 130-Oswald, Lee Harvey

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DRAFTED BY: PPT: BWatermans/bjb 3/27/61

APPROVED BY: PPT: John T. White

REFERENCES: W/L - Mr. Johnson

DEPARTMENT FILE COPY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

X-42

TO : PT/U - Mr. Edward J. Hickey

DATE: March 31, 1961

FROM : PT/P - John T. White *JW*

SUBJECT: Instruction to Moscow Drafted March 27, 1961

Attached are the case file of Lee Harvey Oswald, PT/P's proposed Instruction to Moscow, and Mr. Johnson's memorandum to me.

I believe the decision whether the Embassy at Moscow should be authorized to mail a passport to Mr. Oswald from the Embassy to Minsk should be yours.

You will note that our proposed Instruction authorizes the mailing of the passport, under proper safeguards, only

1. If Oswald satisfies the Embassy that he has a bona fide intention to return to the United States
2. If Oswald is unable to call in person at the Embassy
3. If the Embassy is fully satisfied that Oswald has not expatriated himself in any manner.

I agree with Mr. Johnson that we should not be bound by the opinion which he expressed in paragraph 2 of his letter quoted in Moscow's despatch, and we have not let that opinion enter into our decision. Please note the third paragraph of our Instruction. However, it is believed that whatever risk might be involved in transmitting the passport by mail under the above conditions would be more than offset by the opportunity provided the United States to obtain information from Mr. Oswald concerning his activities in the Soviet Union. For the best interests of the United States, therefore, and as the possession of a passport might facilitate his obtention of an exit visa it is believed that we should do everything within our power to facilitate Oswald's entry into the United States.

Attachments:

As stated.

PPT:Oacciatorresbjb

CONFIDENTIAL



DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

38(2)

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

A-173, April 13, 1961

NO.

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

TO: The American Embassy Moscow

The Embassy's Dispatch No. 505 of February 27, 1961 concerning Lee Harvey Oswald has been studied with particular reference to the last two paragraphs thereof. Dispatch No. 659 of March 24, 1961 concerning him has also been noted.

If and when Mr. Oswald appears at the Embassy, he should be thoroughly questioned regarding the circumstances of his residence in the Soviet Union and his possible commitment of a set or acts of espionage and, as contemplated by the Embassy, his statements should be taken under oath. If the Embassy is fully satisfied that he has not expatriated himself in any manner and if he presents evidence that he has arranged to depart from the Soviet Union to travel to the United States, his passport may be delivered to him on a personal basis only, after being rendered valid for direct return to the United States. For security reasons, the Department does not consider that it would be prudent for the Embassy to forward Oswald's passport to him by mail.

The Department is not in a position to advise Mr. Oswald whether upon his desired return to the United States he may be amenable to prosecution for any possible offenses committed in violation of the laws of the United States or the laws of any of its States.

The developments in the case of Mr. Oswald should be promptly reported. In particular, a report of his travel date should be submitted when the Embassy receives confirmation of his travel plans.

It may be noted that Mrs. Marguerite Oswald has been informed of the address given by Mr. Oswald in his recent unlisted communication referred to in Dispatch No. 505 and of his desire to return to the United States. She has also been appropriately informed in the light of Dispatch No. 659.

FOUO

PT/EA-113-0-14, Lee Harvey

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CIA furnished copy 4/15/61 - PT/s-CHS  
Oswald by me 4/15/61 - PT/s-CHS

DRAFTED: PPT: Waterman/hjb 4/13/61

APPROVED BY: [Signature] PPT: John T. White

CLEARANCES: PTL - Mr. Johnson

DEPARTMENT FILE COPY

FORM DS-10 4-1-58		DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERENCE SLIP		DATE
				10/5/61
TO:	NAME OR TITLE	DEPT. SYMBOL	ROOM NO. BLDG.	INITIALS DATE
1.	Miss Gonova Shiflet	→ (E. Terenzi)	5368	1/3
2.	CIA, Room GE0909,			
3.	Langley, Virginia.			
4.				
5.				
APPROVAL		NOTE AND FORWARD		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED		NOTE AND RETURN		
COMMENT		PER CONVERSATION		
FOR YOUR INFORMATION		PREPARE REPLY		
INITIAL FOR CLEARANCE		SEE ME		
NECESSARY ACTION		SIGNATURE		
REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL ROUTING				
<p>Per your request attached is a thermofax copy of Department of State Instruction No. A-173 dated April 13, 1961 concerning the passport matter of Lee Harvey OSWALD.</p>				
FROM (NAME AND ORGANIZATION)		ROOM NO. AND BLDG.		
Robert D. Johnson		2135 State Dept.		
SIGNATURE Chief Counsel, Passport Office		PHONE NO. Bldg.		
		3486		

AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(Security Classification)

DO NO

THIS SPACE

261-1122 Oswald,  
Lee Harvey 15-2661

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Embassy MOSCOW  
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.  
Department's A-173, April 13, 1961;  
Embassy's D-659, March 24, 1961, same subject.

806

May 26, 1961

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	PIT-2	AM/R-2, SCS-2, EUR-5, INR-9
	6/3	CIA-15

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

The Embassy received on May 25, 1961 an undated letter from Lee Harvey Oswald postmarked Minsk, May 16, 1961, in which he states in part that he is asking "full guarantees that I shall not, under any circumstances, be persecuted for any act pertaining to this case" should he return to the United States, that if this "condition" cannot be met he will "endeavor to use my relatives in the United States to see about getting something done in Washington." According to the letter, Oswald is married to a Russian woman who would want to accompany him to the United States. The text of the letter is contained in Enclosure 1.

In view of the possibility that the Department may receive further inquiries from Oswald's mother or from other persons in his behalf concerning his case, the Embassy would be glad to have the Department's comments before replying to Oswald. The Embassy proposes to reply to Oswald, drawing upon the language of the third paragraph of the Department's A-173, that should he be found not to have lost American citizenship, he would be entitled to return to the United States under the laws and regulations applicable to all American citizens and that the Embassy is not in a position to advise him whether in the event of his return he may be subject to prosecution for possible offenses committed in violation of the laws of the United States or of any of the States. The Embassy's reply would also reiterate that the final determination of Oswald's claim to American citizenship could only be made on the basis of a personal interview and that he is free to visit the Embassy whenever he desires. The reply would include the Embassy's prepared information sheets explaining the requirements and procedures pertaining to his wife's intended immigration. Oswald would also be informed of the necessity for him and his wife to apply to the Soviet authorities for permission to leave the Soviet Union and would be invited to inform the Embassy if he had done so.

The reference in Oswald's letter to his present Soviet internal passport in which he is apparently designated as "without citizenship" is, if accurate, prima facie indication that the Soviet government does not regard him as possessing Soviet citizenship. It would appear on this basis that Oswald has not yet expatriated himself under Section 349(a)(1) of the Immigration and

RESnyder/vdb  
REPORTER

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

Commission Exhibit No. 973

Commission Exhibit No. 973



May, 1961

"Dear Sirs:

"In regards to your letter of March 24. I understand the reasons for the necessity of a personal interview at the Embassy, however, I wish to make it clear that I am asking not only for the right to return to the United States, but also for full guarantees that I shall not, under any circumstances, be persecuted for any act pertaining to this case. I made that clear from my first letter, although nothing has been said, even vaguely, concerning this in my correspondence with the Embassy. Unless you honestly think that this condition can be met, I see no reason for a continuance of our correspondence, instead I shall endeavor to use my relatives in the United States, to see about getting something done in Washington.

"As for coming to Moscow, this would have to be on my own initiative and I do not care to take the risk of getting into a awkward situation unless I think it worthwhile. Also, since my last letter I have gotten married.

"My wife is Russian, born in Leningrad, she has no parents living and is quite willing to leave the Soviet Union with me and live in the United States.

"I would not leave here without my wife so arrangements would have to be made for her to leave at the same time as I do.

"The marriage stamp was placed on my present passport, after some trouble with the authorities, so my status as far as the USSR is concerned, is the same as before, that is "without citizenship."

"So with this extra complication I suggest you do some checking up before advising me further.

"I believe I have spoken frankly in this letter. I hope you do the same in your next letter.

"Sincerely yours,

/s/ Lee Harvey Oswald"

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Commission Exhibit No. 973

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(Classification)

Page 2  
Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Disp. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
From MOSCOW

Nationality Act.

The Embassy has noted that the Department did not consider it prudent to forward Oswald's passport to him by mail. The Embassy also feels that it would be neither prudent nor appropriate in this case to return Oswald's passport to him without the normal physical and legal safe-guards provided by the requirement that he appear at the Embassy for a personal interview. Should circumstances arise which make it desirable to provide Oswald with a passport or certificate of identity, under circumstances other than the foregoing, the Embassy will request the Department's prior advice. Does the Department consider that Oswald is entitled to the protection of the United States Government while he continues to reside abroad under present circumstances in the absence of reasonable evidence that he has committed an expatriating act?

For the Ambassador:

*Edward L. Green*  
Edward L. Green  
Minister Counselor

*all*  
Enclosure:

As stated above.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Commission Exhibit No. 973



OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DATE: 1-7, July 11, 1961

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Leo Harvey Oswald

TO: The American Embassy, Moscow

Further study has been given to the case of Mr. Oswald in the light of the Embassy's Dispatch No. 323 of May 26, 1961.

Mr. Oswald's mother has been informed to the effect that her son has not yet visited the Embassy and that he has informed the Embassy that he has carried a Russian passport.

The Department concurs with the Embassy in its proposed reply to Mr. Oswald, as indicated in the second paragraph of Dispatch No. 323.

It is noted that while Mr. Oswald is in possession of a Soviet internal passport he apparently is designated therein as "without citizenship." It is not entirely clear that this designation is intended to infer, i.e., whether he is without Soviet citizenship or without any citizenship. In any case in the absence of evidence showing that Mr. Oswald has definitely lost United States citizenship he apparently maintains that technical status. Whether or not he is entitled to the protection of the United States pending any further developments concerning his present status is a matter which will be left to the Embassy's discretion in the event an emergency situation should arise. In a situation of this kind, not of an emergency nature, the facts should be submitted to the Department.

It is noted that the Embassy intends to meet the Department's prior advice before granting Mr. Oswald documentation as a United States citizen upon any application he may submit.

The Embassy's careful attention to the involved case of Mr. Oswald is appreciated. It is assumed that there is no doubt that the person who has been in communication with the Embassy is the person who was issued a passport in the name of Leo Harvey Oswald.

NOTE

7/12/61-13-55013, Leo Harvey

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*Handwritten notes:*  
Back copy  
to W-7  
to EE:SOV  
7/12/61

PREPARED BY: PPT: E. J. ... bb 7/5/61 GWM

APPROVED BY: PPT: John T. White

REMARKS:

*Handwritten:* PT/LS CHS

DEPARTMENT FILE COPY

NAME (Last) (First) (Middle)

OSWALD, LEE HARVEY

FORM DP-1175  
DEPT. OF STATE  
PASSPORT OFFICE

BIRTH DATE BIRTH PLACE

10/18/39 New Orleans

FILE REQUEST FORM

TYPE AND DATE OF DOCUMENTS DESIRED (Be Specific - Do Not Use "Entire File")

Any Prev on file

REQUESTED BY  
PT/K - Galloway

DATE REQUESTED CONTROL POINT

11-17-61 2810

REMARKS

X-25

PASSPORT OFFICE SEARCH REPORT

- Current File
- Box File *classified files*
- Classified File
- No Record
- File Attached
- File Charged To

PT/SEA KUPCIC 11-2-61  
(name) (date)

WA 11/13/61  
(searcher) (date)

FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER (OR RM/R) REPORT

- No Record
- File Attached
- File Charged To

REMARKS: (name) (date)

(searcher) (date)

GPO 500255

NOTES:

PASSPORT OFFICE  
MASTER INDEX RECORD  
PT/RCI - Master Index

130

incl. in file of 130

No record 1906 to date ( )

APPLICATION CLEARED

Date 7-10-61

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Domestic                        | Foreign                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ren.   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ren. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Val.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Val.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repl.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Repl.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amend. | <input type="checkbox"/> Amend.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ext.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ext.            |
| Seaman                          | Registration                             |

Aircraft  
Correspondence

Other papers

Try Clerk W.C. Date 11-21-61

Commission Exhibit No. 976

Commission Exhibit No. 976

(Last) (First) (Middle)

FORM 00-1170  
12-11-50  
DEPART. OF STATE  
PASSPORT OFFICE  
FILE REQUEST FORM

BIRTH DATE 10/10/39 BIRTH PLACE Harvey

TYPE AND DATE OF DOCUMENTS CHARGED 10/10/39

CHARGED TO  
DATE CHANGED 11-17-61 CONTROL POINT 2810

*any previous file*

CHARGED OUT WITH

REMARKS

NOTES

PASSPORT OFFICE  
MASTER INDEX RECORD  
PT/RCI - Master Index

130

Incl. in file of 130

No record 1906 to date ( )

APPLICATION CLEARED

Date 7-10-61

- Domestic
  - Ren.
  - Val.
  - Repl.
  - Amend.
  - Ext.
- Foreign
  - Ren.
  - Val.
  - Repl.
  - Amend.
  - Ext.
- Seaman
- Aircrewman
- Registration

*Bo app 99-59*

Correspondence \_\_\_\_\_  
Other papers \_\_\_\_\_

Try \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk WJ Date 11-21-61

Commission Exhibit No. 976

MAIL FOUCH

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

in the PPT filed Decentralized Files

29

JUL 11 1961

FROM: Amambassy MDCOW

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF: Department's Instruction A-173, April 13, 1961; Embassy's D-806, May 26, 1961, same subject.

X-30(4) (1)

50 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	PPT-2	EUR-5 SCS-2 INR-9
	7-19	CIA-10

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

Lee Harvey OSWALD appeared at the Embassy on July 8 on his own initiative in connection with his desire to return to the United States with his wife.

Oswald executed the enclosed questionnaire pertaining to possible expatriating acts and was questioned at length concerning his activities since entering the Soviet Union. No evidence was revealed of any act on his part which might have caused loss of his American citizenship. He exhibited Soviet internal "stateless" passport (vid na zhitelstvo dlya litza bez grazhdanstva) No. 311479 issued by the Moscow city government on January 11, 1960, which is prima facie evidence that he is regarded by the Soviet authorities as not possessing Soviet citizenship. Oswald stated that despite the wording of the statement which he handed to the Embassy on October 31, 1959 (Embassy despatch 234, November 2, 1959), he never in fact actually applied for Soviet citizenship. His application at that time was for permission to remain in the Soviet Union and for a temporary extension of his tourist visa pending the outcome of his request. This application, according to Oswald, contained no reference to Soviet citizenship, nor did he subsequently make any application for Soviet citizenship. The application was addressed by him to the USSR Supreme Soviet and was placed in the mail box of the Metropole Hotel. It appeared, however, to have been delivered to the central office of the Moscow OVIR and apparently was the basis of a notification to him by that office three days later of permission to remain in the Soviet Union. There was subsequently issued his present "stateless" internal passport.

Oswald stated that he has been employed since January 13, 1960, in the Belorussian Radio and TV Factory in Minsk, where he works as a metal worker in the research shop. He stated that he took no oath or affirmation or allegiance of any kind nor was he required to sign any kind of papers in connection with his employment. He gave his earnings as 90 rubles per month. He stated that he is not a member of the factory trade union organization, never having been asked to join.

Oswald stated that he had never been called upon to make any statements for radio or press or to address audiences since his arrival in the Soviet Union and that he has made no statements at any time of any exploitable nature concerning his original decision to reside in the Soviet Union. He recalled that he had

RESnyder/vcb  
REPORTER

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ACTION COPY -- DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R file with an endorsement of action taken.

Commission Exhibit No. 977

Commission Exhibit No. 977

PASSPORT OFFICE  
RT/RCL (Lookout File)

RECEIVED  
MENT OF STATE

130

1961 JUL 19 AM 9 19

Incl. in file of 130

ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION  
BRANCH

No Lookout (refusal) File Record

Lookout File Record, dated

Try Lookout File Record, dated

RECEIVED

1961 AUG 3 AM 10 06

PASSPORT OFFICE  
PT/FA

Purport:

Clerk

Date 8/2/61

Commission Exhibit No. 977



been interviewed briefly in his room at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow on the third day after his arrival in the Soviet Union by a reporter from Radio Moscow. The reporter represented himself as seeking comments from American tourists on their impressions of Moscow. Oswald stated that he made no more than a few routine comments of a visiting-tourist nature, the whole lasting no more than two or three minutes and of no political significance. When queried about a statement which he had made to the interviewing officer at the time of his first appearance at the Embassy on October 31, 1959, to the effect that he would willingly make available to the Soviet Union such information as he had acquired as a radar operator in the Marine Corps, Oswald stated that he was never in fact subjected to any questioning or briefing by the Soviet authorities concerning his life or experiences prior to entering the Soviet Union, and never provided such information to any Soviet organ. He stated that he doubted in fact that he would have given such information if requested despite his statements made at the Embassy.

Oswald indicated some anxiety as to whether, should he return to the United States, he would face possible lengthy imprisonment for his act of remaining in the Soviet Union. Oswald was told informally that the Embassy did not perceive, on the basis of information in its possession, on what grounds he might be subject to conviction leading to punishment of such severity as he apparently had in mind. It was clearly stated to him, however, that the Embassy could give him no assurance as to whether upon his desired return to the United States he might be liable to prosecution for offenses committed in violation of laws of the United States or of any of its States. Oswald said he understood this. He had simply felt that in his own interest he could not go back to the United States if it meant returning to a number of years in prison, and had delayed approaching Soviet authorities concerning departing from the Soviet Union until he "had this end of the thing straightened out."

Oswald was married on April 30, 1961, to Marina Nikolayevna FUSAKOVA, a dental technician. He is attempting to arrange for his wife to join him in Moscow so that she can appear at the Embassy for a visa interview in the next day or two.

Oswald intends to institute an application for an exit visa immediately upon his return to Minsk within the next few days. His American passport was returned to him for this purpose after having been amended to be valid for direct return to the United States only. The possession of a foreign passport or similar travel document is typically a prerequisite to being permitted to file an application for a Soviet exit visa, and it was felt that there was little prospect that Oswald could accomplish anything with the Soviet officials concerned unless he displayed his American passport. Oswald's present passport expires on September 10, 1961, and it is our intention not to renew it without the Department's prior approval of the enclosed renewal application, and then only upon evidence of a present need for the renewal in connection with his efforts to return to the United States.

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Commission Exhibit No. 977

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(Classification)

Page 3  
Zed. No.  
Dep. No. 29  
From MOSCOW

Twenty months of the realities of life in the Soviet Union have clearly had a maturing effect on Oswald. He stated frankly that he had learned a hard lesson the hard way and that he had been completely relieved of his illusions about the Soviet Union at the same time that he acquired a new understanding and appreciation of the United States and the meaning of freedom. Much of the arrogance and bravado which characterized him on his first visit to the Embassy appears to have left him. He stated that he is in contact with his mother and a brother in the United States. He stated that he had about 200 rubles and that he and his wife would save more for eventual costs of traveling to the United States.

Action Requested: The Department's action is requested on the enclosed application for renewal of Oswald's passport. If approved, it is requested that the Embassy be authorized to renew Oswald's passport at its discretion.

For the Ambassador:

Boris H. Klosson  
Counselor for Political Affairs

Enclosures: *all*

Questionnaire executed by Oswald, July 10, 1961.  
Application for Renewal of Passport executed by Oswald, July 10, 1961.

*Thornby  
copy furnished  
Mr. Wickman  
INS - 7-12-61  
Wickman  
PT/LL*

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Commission Exhibit No. 977

FORM 05-10 4-1-58		DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERENCE SLIP		DATE 7/11/61	
TO:	NAME OR TITLE	ROOM NO. BLDG.	INITIALS	DATE	
1.	Mr. C. G. Hill 130- Oswald, Lee Harvey				
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
APPROVAL		NOTE AND FORWARD			
AS REQUESTED		NOTE AND RETURN			
COMMENT		PER CONVERSATION			
FOR YOUR INFORMATION		PREPARE REPLY			
INITIAL FOR CLEARANCE		SEE ME			
NECESSARY ACTION		SIGNATURE			
REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL ROUTING <span style="float: right;">GPO 574888</span>					
<p>Miss V. James, SCV, telephoned to say that Mr. Foster of that office wanted to know what reply had been made to Moscow's despatch 29 of July 11, 1961 in the case of Oswald. I stated that a draft reply was in preparation. Miss James stated that Mr. Foster would like to clear the communication and pointed out that PIT is the only office of the Department whose communications to Moscow are not cleared in SCV. I stated that I had never heard that our passport and citizenship decisions should be routed to SCV for clearance and that under standing instructions, SCV receives a copy of the Operations Memoranda prepared in this Division addressed to the Moscow Embassy.</p> <p>I stated that I would put a memorandum on the file of Oswald to show the special interest of SCV in the reply to despatch 29, mentioned above.</p>					
FROM (NAME AND ORGANIZATION)			ROOM NO. AND BLDG.		
D. J. Hill			1		
SIGNATURE			PHONE NO.		

X-28



CONFIDENTIAL O.P.H. (WED)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : PPT

DATE: July 27, 1961

FROM : Emery J. Adams, For the Director, Office of Security

99h

SUBJECT: OSWALD, Lee Harvey

Ref

*caf*

*See PPT file 10-7-61*

**I-24(13)**

There are transmitted for your consideration the attached documents and/or reports relating to the subject. Should additional data be required, the basic document, when not attached, or the SY file, can be made available upon request.

The information transmitted herewith is for your confidential use only and not for dissemination outside the Department.

Please handle the attached material as indicated:

     A. RETURN TO SY.

  X   B. RETAIN OR DESTROY. REPORT

*incorrect*

Attached report is a summation of Subject's background and case since he renounced U. S. citizenship and sought Soviet citizenship in the fall of 1959. As his citizenship status does not appear to be resolved, copies of the report are furnished to both PPT and VO.

Attachments:

FBI report dtd. 7/3/61 at Dallas.

CC: VO - Report

PASSPORT OFFICE

AUG 1 - 1961

LEGAL DIVISION

Special Copy

- 1.) SOV
- 2.) SCS
- 3.) SGA

CONFIDENTIAL

SY FILE

SCAS:SY:RETT:rich:jon  
In reply please refer to SY/IRB

Commission Exhibit No. 980

Commission Exhibit No. 980

FORM 88-10 A-1-58 DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERENCE SLIP			DATE 11-22-61			
1	NAME OR TITLE	ORGAN. SYMBOL	ROOM NO.	BLDG.	INITIALS	DATE
1	MR. KUPIEC					
2						
3						
4						
5						
APPROVAL			NOTE AND FORWARD			
AS REQUESTED			NOTE AND RETURN			
COMMENT			PER CONVERSATION			
FOR YOUR INFORMATION			PREPARE REPLY			
INITIAL FOR CLEARANCE			SEE ME			
NECESSARY ACTION			SIGNATURE			
REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL ROUTING						876 87680
<p>Pls attach to case - which is charged to you.</p> <p>Return to WED if you think necessary - after you have completed action.</p> <p>HCUA - 6.12.62</p> <p>↓ Rec'd in FEAC 11/24/61</p>						
FROM (NAME AND ORGANIZATION)			ROOM NO. AND BLDG.			
P.H. - A. Galloway						
SIGNATURE			PHONE NO.			

Commission Exhibit No. 980

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Report of - ONI, New Orleans, Louisiana (RM)

Report of JOHN W. PAIR  
Date 7/3/51

Office DALLAS

Field Office File No. Dallas 100-10431

Bureau File No. 105-22565

Title LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Special - The subject, who attempted to defect to Russia in October, 1950, and who was a member of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, was given an undesirable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve 8/17/50. Subject born 10/13/29, New Orleans, Louisiana. His father, EDWARD LEE OSWALD, died before subject's birth. Subject moved with his mother to Fort Worth, Texas, from New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1943. As a high school student at Fort Worth, subject enlisted at age 17 in the U. S. Marine Corps 10/24/50. He received an honorable discharge 8/11/50 from the U. S. Marine Corps and re-enlisted as a Private in the U.S. Marine Corps 8/11/50. Following his discharge in September, 1950, subject visited his mother at Fort Worth for a few days and left for New Orleans with expressed intention of resuming employment in aircraft repair work. Subject's mother subsequently received letter from New Orleans from subject advising he had booked passage on a ship to Europe. Subject later renounced U. S. citizenship and sought to become a citizen of Russia. Subject reported to be residing at Kienok, Russia, and is said to have recently expressed a desire for return of U. S. passport as he desired to return to U.S. under certain conditions.

- C -

DETAILS:

Investigation was predicated on information received by communication of January 11, 1951, from District Intelligence Office, 8th Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana, advising that

CONFIDENTIAL

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.

Commission Exhibit No. 980

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, who attempted to defect to Russia in October, 1959, and who was a member of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, had been given an undesirable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve on August 17, 1960.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Name and Alias

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, also known as Lee Oswald.

B. Residence

On April 29, 1960, Mrs. KATHERINE OSWALD, subject's mother, currently residing at 1111 Earring Avenue, Vaco, Texas, where she was employed at Methodist Orphans Home, volunteered the following information:

She stated that up until 1945 she and her sons had lived at New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1946 they moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where the subject attended high school until he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps at the age of 17 in October, 1948.

On June 23, 1961, Mrs. JAMES E. TAYLOR, 4936 Collingwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas, stated the subject and his mother resided in a partly furnished upstairs apartment at 4936 Collingwood Street, from July 1, 1958, to May 1, 1957, except that subject was absent during the Fall of 1958, enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps at the age of 17. She advised that subject's brother, ROBERT OSWALD, also resided at 4936 Collingwood until the time of his marriage.

On April 10, 1961, Mrs. OSWALD voluntarily furnished the information that she was currently residing at 1013 Harley Street, Fort Worth, Texas. She explained that she had returned to Fort Worth about April 1, 1961, from Ford, Texas, where she had operated a dress shop which she found necessary to close on account of financial difficulties. Mrs. OSWALD related that during January, 1961, she had made a trip to Washington, D. C., for the purpose of contacting the office of the U. S. Secretary of State in an effort to obtain more information concerning subject. She stated that she had furnished all information available in her possession concerning the subject and that she had in turn sought information to ascertain his current address. She advised that she had recently been informed by the State Department that subject was located at Hanoi, Russia. She also advised that it is her understanding that subject desires to return to the United States.



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C. Employment

Mrs. OSTALD advised on April 23, 1960, that subject had been engaged in the export-import type of employment at New Orleans, Louisiana, after visiting her in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1959. In 1945 he was a student at the Fort Worth High School at the time he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps in October, 1936.

D. Citizenship Status

According to information furnished by Mrs. OSTALD in April, 1960, subject was born October 18, 1930, at New Orleans, Louisiana. His father was EDWARD LEE OSTALD who died before subject was born.

Mrs. OSTALD volunteered the information that subject had taken his birth certificate with him when he left Fort Worth, Texas.

E. Nationality Background

No information available.

F. Education

Mrs. OSTALD stated on April 23, 1960, subject was attending high school at Fort Worth when he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps. He has not finished high school.

On June 23, 1961, Dallas Confidential Informant T-1 advised that subject had special educational training while in the U. S. Marine Corps at Jacksonville, Florida, from March 18, 1957 to May 3, 1957; at Biloxi, Mississippi, from May 4, 1957 to June 12, 1957. Subject had special training as an electronics operator and as a radio operator.

In April, 1960, Mrs. OSTALD advised that subject had informed her by letter sometime during the Spring or Summer of 1959, that he had made arrangements to attend the Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland. She also advised that a few days previous to April 23, 1960, she had received a letter from this college to the effect that subject was expected to arrive on April 20, 1960.

On February 28, 1961, Dallas Confidential Informant T-2 advised that it had been ascertained that subject never arrived

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at the Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland although he had paid a \$25.00 deposit toward school fee. The college had not heard from subject since he sent in his deposit during June of 1959.

G. Military Record

Dallas T-1 advised on June 28, 1961, that subject, assigned serial number 1659250, had enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps on October 24, 1953, while residing at 4033 Collingwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas. On September 11, 1959, subject received an honorable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps and entered on the same date as a Private First Class in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve.

By communication dated January 11, 1961, the District Intelligence Office, 8th Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that subject had been given an undesirable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve on August 17, 1960.

H. Close Relatives in Armed Forces

On April 29, 1960, Mrs. MARGUERITE C. OSWALD stated that she had two other sons, ROBERT LEE OSWALD, age 23, who was formerly in the U. S. Air Force, and JOHN EDWARD PIC, age 28, who was then a Staff Sergeant in the U. S. Air Force and was then stationed at Hiroshima, Japan. This is Staff Sergeant JOHN EDWARD PIC, Air Force No. 11518239.

I. Personal Description

Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD also on April 23, 1960, furnished the following description of LEE HARVEY OSWALD:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	20 (1960)
Date of birth:	October 10, 1939
Place of birth:	New Orleans, Louisiana.
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	163 lbs.
Eyes:	Blue
Hair:	Light brown, wavy