

# Defected to Russia in '59

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—Lee Harvey Oswald of Fort Worth wrote Sen. John Tower in January 1962 from the Soviet Union asking the senator's assistance in returning to the United States.

(A man with the same name is being held in Dallas as a suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy.)

House Un-American Activities Committee records identify Oswald as secretary of the New Orleans chapter of Fair Play for Cuba, an organization sympathetic with the Castro regime.

Records also show that in a radio debate in New Orleans in the summer of 1962, Oswald identified himself as a Marxist.

IN CHECKING on the matter, Tower's office was advised by the State Department that Oswald had renounced his citizenship and affirmed his allegiance to the Soviet Union. Tower's office also was told by a State Department congressional contact that the department would possibly finance Oswald's return on a loan basis.

Tower's office was told Oswald's mother lived in Vernon and would be unable to pay the return fare for Oswald and his wife. Oswald's wife was pregnant at the time.

A State Department file shows that one Lee H. Oswald wrote the U.S. embassy in the Soviet Union asking for arrangements for a loan from the embassy or some organization for part of the airplane fare.

THE AMERICAN consul in Moscow, Samuel C. Wise, answered Oswald on Jan. 15, 1962. State Department records show and told Oswald he would have to come to the embassy to discuss a loan for travel expenses.

It was not determined how Oswald returned to this country, or whether a loan was secured.

Miss Linda Lee Lovelady of Odessa, Tower's executive secretary, handled the letter from Oswald at the time of the correspondence in January, 1962. Fol-

lowing the assassination of the President, she heard a report about Oswald on the radio and recalled handling his file.

"YOU COULDN'T forget a letter like that one," she said. "Especially when you learn someone has renounced his citizenship."

Following is the text of the letter from Oswald to Tower from Minsk, Russia:

"My name is Lee Harvey Oswald of Fort Worth. Until October, 1959, when I came to the Soviet Union for a residential stay, I took a residential document for a non-Soviet person living for a time in the U.S.S.R. The American embassy in Moscow is familiar with my case.

"Since July 20, 1960, I have unsuccessfully applied for a Soviet exit visa to leave this country. The Soviets refused to permit me and my Soviet wife (who applied at the U.S. embassy, Moscow, July 8, 1960, for immigration status to the U.S.A.) to leave the Soviet Union. I am a citizen of the United States of America and I beseech you, Senator Tower, to raise a question of holding by the Soviet Union of a citizen of the United States against his will and expressed desires."

FOLLOWING RECEIPT of the letter, Tower's office wrote the State Department, on Jan. 26, 1962, asserting that Oswald's letter should have been addressed to the executive branch.

"For this reason, I am forwarding this correspondence to you for whatever action the department may consider appropriate," Sen. Tower wrote Fred G. Dutton, assistant secretary of state for congressional relations.

Several days later, Miss Lovelady received a call from a Mr. Stanfield of the State Department regarding Oswald's case. She was told that Oswald had requested that his American citizenship be revoked and that he affirmed his allegiance to the

Soviet Union on Nov. 2, 1959. This was more than three years before he had requested Sen. Tower's help.

TOWER DID NOT take any further action in the case, but his office was told it would be informed regarding the case, or any developments. The State Department files made available to Sen. Tower's office do not reflect how Oswald returned to the United States.

Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough's office said it had no correspondence in its files on Oswald.