

Widow 'Studies' Oswald Letters With Probers

Assassination Inquiry Hears of His Strange
Russian Preoccupation, Attempt to Defect

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WASHINGTON — Identified himself with Castroism in Cuba, there has been speculation about the purpose of his journey to Mexico and how it might have been financed. Through a series of personal letters and public documents, Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald helped the Warren commission Tuesday trace her husband's strange preoccupation with Russia and communism in the 17 months prior to President Kennedy's assassination.

The pretty, blue-eyed widow of Mr. Kennedy's accused slayer spent a second day testifying behind closed doors before the Presidential investigative commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

The chief justice said that today Mrs. Oswald will be asked by the commission to identify the rifle with which her husband is said to have shot Mr. Kennedy last Nov. 22. Mr. Kennedy was slain by a 6.5mm. Italian-made carbine. Investigators have found that Oswald bought such a gun last March from a Chicago mail order house.

'She'll Identify It'

"We'll show her a gun," Warren told reporters, "and I have an idea she'll say it was this gun (that belonged to Oswald) because she already said so before the press."

Warren said the questioning of Mrs. Oswald today will deal, in addition to the gun, with other "items of physical evidence — things that were around the home."

At Tuesday's session Mrs. Oswald went over letters which Oswald had written to her in Russian and to American officials in English following their return to the United States from the Soviet Union in mid-1962.

The letters dealt in part with Oswald's attempts to obtain passports so that he and his young Russian-born wife could go back to the Soviet Union, where Oswald lived from 1959 to 1962.

The chief justice said Mrs. Oswald's testimony touched on Oswald's mysterious visit to Mexico just two months

identified himself with Castroism in Cuba, there has been speculation about the purpose of his journey to Mexico and how it might have been financed.

Warren told news men that Oswald used Russian in letters to his wife because "he did not want her to learn English."

Oswald, who was shot to death last Nov. 24 in Dallas Police Headquarters by night club owner Jack Ruby, attempted unsuccessfully to defect to Russia during his stay in that country. Oswald then apparently suffered some disenchantment with the Soviet Union and brought his Russian bride to the United States.

Added Attempts

But once back in his home country, Oswald made additional attempts to return to Russia.

The letters and documents surveyed by the commission covered Oswald's eccentric movements from Ft. Worth to New Orleans, to Dallas between June, 1962, and the day of Mr. Kennedy's assassination.

Warren said Mrs. Oswald's testimony Tuesday and the letters contained "nothing new—nothing that I haven't read in the press."

Commission sources said the correspondence indicated that Oswald was very much a "loner" and a misfit.

before Mr. Kennedy's assassination. He indicated the commission probably will probe more deeply into this trip.

Since Oswald had publicly