

DIARY RELATES SUICIDE ATTEMPT

Oswald Disillusioned by Life, Women During Stay in Russia

DALLAS (AP)—Lee Harvey Oswald wrote vividly in a diary of an attempt to commit suicide soon after reaching Russia in 1959, of his unsatisfactory love life with Russian girls until he met Marina, of his dissatisfaction with Russia and of his plans to return to the United States.

He told of these things in a diary reported in a copyrighted story written by Hugh Aynesworth in Saturday's Dallas Morning News. A second portion of the diary will be published later.

Oswald labeled his writing "Historic Diary" and kept it from Oct. 16, 1959, the day he entered Moscow, until March 27, 1962. A year and a half after returning to the

United States, Oswald was charged with assassinating President John F. Kennedy in Dallas. Two days after Mr. Kennedy died, Jack Ruby shot Oswald to death.

Oswald's train into Moscow was met by Intourist guide Rimma Sherikova. His words to her were, "I want to apply for Russian citizenship."

In his diary, he said, "She is flabbergasted, but agrees to help." He wrote, "I explain I am a Communist . . . She is politely sympathetic, but uneasy now . . . She tries to be a friend to me. She feels sorry for me. I am something new."

When Oswald visited a Soviet official about getting citizenship, Oswald told him the Soviet Union is "great." He said the official told him, "the U.S.S.R. is only great in literature."

Oswald heard nothing about extending his visa and two hours before it was to expire, police telephoned and ordered him to start out of the country within two hours.

He decided to commit

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suicide one hour before his visa expired. He wrote, "Soak wrist in cold water to numb the pain. Then slash my left wrist. Then place into bathtub of hot water."

"I think, 'when Rimma comes at 8 to find me dead, it will be a great shock.'"

"Somewhere a violin plays, as I watch my life whirl away."

Found Unconscious

Rimma found Oswald unconscious by the bathtub, the floor and tub deeply stained with his blood. Doctors took five stitches in the wrist wound.

When he regained consciousness the next day, he realized he was in an insanity ward. "This realization disquiets me," he wrote. With Rimma's help, he was transferred to a regular ward.

He described how he became discouraged at hearing nothing about Russian citizenship papers. "I must have some sort of showdown," he wrote and went to the American Embassy and told an official, John A. MeVickers, "I have come to dissolve my American citizenship."

Try To Dissuade Him

Embassy officials tried to talk him out of it, he wrote, but he left elated, sure the Russians would now welcome him . . . "After this sign of faith in them."

One month after his arrival in Russia, an official notified him he could remain until they decided what to do about his case.

On Jan. 4, 1960, he was told he could have a residence document but not citizenship and was ordered 468 miles southwest of Moscow to Minsk to take a job in a factory. He said he got money from the Red Cross to pay his hotel bills and the

train fare. (The Red Cross in Washington denied ever giving Oswald money.)

Cash From Police

He later said the money came from Russian secret police.

Oswald wrote he felt the money—700 rubles a month in 1961—was payment for "My denunciation of the U.S. in Moscow."

After leaving Russia Oswald wrote, "When I went to Russia in the winter of 1959 my funds were very limited, so after a certain time, after the Russians had assured themselves that I was really the naive American who believed in communism, they arranged for me to receive a certain amount of money every month."

"Oh, it came technically through the Red Cross as financial help to a poor political immigrant, but it was arranged by the MVD (secret police)," Oswald wrote.

Given Good Job

In Minsk, he met Rosa, "about 23, blond, attractive, unmarried, excellent English. We attract each other at once."

At the Minsk radio factory he was given a good job—very good by Russian standards—as a "checker" metal worker at an additional 700 rubles a month.

He said he took Rosa to

the theater, movie or opera almost daily. "I am living big and am very satisfied."

But on his 21st birthday, Oct. 18, 1960, he invited Rosa and a Jewish girl named Ella Germain and another man to his apartment for a party.

"Rosa and Ella are jealous of each other," he wrote. "It brings a warm feeling to me. Both are at my place for the first time."

In December of that year, he wrote that he was "hav-

ng a light affair with Nell Korobka," a girl he met at the foreign language dormitory.

His mind was made up, however, for Ella on Jan. 1, 1961. "I think I'm in love with her. She has refused my more dishonorable advances. We drink and eat in the presence of her family in a very hospitable atmosphere.

"Later I go home drunk and happy. Passing the river homeward. I decide to propose to Ella."

'My Love Is Real'

He does, standing on a doorstep. "She hesitates, then refuses . . . My love is real but she has none for me.

"Her reason besides lack of love: I am an American and someday might be arrested simply because of that."

Oswald told of gradually becoming disenchanted with the Soviet Union. A friend, Andrei Tovli, "says many things and relates many things I don't know about the U.S.S.R. . . . I begin to feel uneasy inside . . ."

When the Russians called

early in January, 1961, to ask if he wants citizenship, he said no, just "extend my residential passport."

"I am starting to reconsider my desire about staying. The work is drab. The money I get has nowhere to be spent. No nightclubs or bowling alleys, no places of recreation except the trade union dances.

"I have had enough."

Wants Back in U.S.

Feb. 1, 1961, he wrote the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, saying he wanted to return to the United States.

A month later, he met a "girl with a French hairdo and red dress with white slippers . . . Her name is Marina. We like each other right away."

The diary got skimpy as Oswald courted Marina. "We are going steady and I decide I must have her. She puts me off, so on April 15, I propose. She accepts."

They marry and Marina's aunt gives a dinner reception for 20 friends and neighbors "who wish us happiness (in spite of my origin and accent.)"

The last diary entry was March 27, 1962, "I receive a letter from a Mr. Philles, an employer of my mother, pledging to support my wife in case of need." Soon after, the Oswalds sailed for New York.