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OSWALD DIARY

Half of His Income

(FR)

DW-6/28

THE LEE HARVEY Red Secret Police Paid

(Second of two articles.)

By HUGH AYNESWORTH

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The Russian secret police paid half of Lee Harvey Oswald's income during 1961 while he was in the Soviet Union, Oswald said in notes he wrote shortly after leaving the U.S.S.R. early the next year.

Oswald wrote that he felt the monthly 700 rubles (he made a like amount at his job in Minsk, he said) was payment for "my denunciation of the U.S. in Moscow."

In his diary Oswald mentioned that the additional 700 rubles was given him by the "Red Cross," but after he left Russia, he 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

UNDESIRABLE DISCHARGE

FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LEE HARVEY OSWALD 1653230

WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ON THE 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1960

AS UNDESIRABLE

M. G. Letscher

M. G. LETSCHER, FIRST LIEUTENANT, USMC

Nearly a year after Lee Oswald defected to Russia, this "undesirable discharge" replaced his "honorable"

one. The last is dated Sept. 13, 1960, when Oswald already was trying to return to the United States.

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).

"I told myself it was simply because I was broke and everybody knew it. I accepted the money because I was hungry and there was several inches of snow on the ground in Moscow at that time, but what it really was payment for my denunciation of the U.S. in Moscow."

Oswald said this money was "a clear promise that for as long as I lived in the U.S.S.R. life would be very good.

"I didn't realize all this, of course, for almost two years."

WHEN OSWALD began planning his return to the United States, the "Red Cross" money stopped, he said.

"As soon as I became completely disgruntled with the Soviet Union and started negotiations with the American embassy in Moscow for my return to the U.S., my 'Red Cross' allotment was cut off.

"This was not difficult to understand since all correspondence in and out of the embassy is censored and is common

knowledge in the embassy itself.

"I have never mentioned the fact of these monthly payments to anyone.

"I do so in order to state that I shall never sell myself intentionally, or unintentionally, to anyone again."

The American Red Cross reports that it had not given Oswald any money and had no record of correspondence between that agency and the U.S.S.R. Red Cross regarding Oswald.

However, the American Red Cross said it was "entirely possible" that the U.S.S.R. Red Cross gave Oswald money "since each country determines what is 'humanitarian need'."

The exact date of Oswald's writing is not known, but the paper is stationery of the Holland-American Line, so it probably was during the Oswald family's return from Russia in early 1962.

OSWALD GOES into great de-

tail in picturing the radio factory in Minsk where he was employed for 23 months.

He said the Russians pulled a big trick when they shipped several combination radio-phonograph-television consoles to the 1958 Soviet trade exhibition in New York.

The Russians proudly beamed that such console sets were being mass produced at that time throughout the Soviet Union.

"After the exhibition," Oswald wrote in his lengthy notes, "the sets were duly shipped back to Minsk and are now stored in a special storage room on the first floor of the administration building at the

factory, ready for the next international exhibit."

He said 6,000 persons worked at the Minsk plant, known through the Soviet Union for its electronics production. Only 1,000 of these, he wrote, were Communists.

He appeared to like his working conditions at the plant, but compulsory attendance at the many meetings upset him.

HE CITED ONE month as an example, claiming he had to attend 12 of 16 scheduled meetings, which included several hours of listening to Communist and trade union drivel.

Though Oswald was fortunate in getting a nice apartment after only a few weeks in Minsk,

he said most of the natives didn't fare so well.

"In order to receive an apartment," he wrote, "people often must wait for five or six years."

He described the people of Minsk as "warmhearted and simple, but often stubborn and untrustworthy."

"Most workers in Minsk come from peasant stock which repopulated the city at the end of the Second World War," he explained.

Another place, he referred to the strictness of the political lectures.

During the Communist party directive readings, Oswald wrote, the attention paid by the workers was "phenomenal."

The people sit at rapt attention, "impervious to outside interference or sounds," he said.

"After long years of hard-fisted discipline, no worker allows himself to be trapped and called out for inattentiveness by the ever-present and watchful party secretary," he added.

"AT THESE TIMES it is best to curb one's natural boisterous and lively nature," he wrote.

"Under the 6-foot by 6-foot picture of Lenin, founder of the Soviet state, the party section secretary stands, at our place a middle-aged, pouched man by the name of Eockapo, an average-looking man wearing glasses, his wrinkled face and twinkling eyes give one the impression that at any moment he's going to tell a racy story or funny joke.

"But he never does.

"Behind this man stands 15 years of party life. His high post, relatively speaking for him, is witness to his efficiency.

"He stands expounding from notes in front of him, the week's 'information' with all the lack of enthusiasm one gets if someone knows he has no worries about an audience or about someone getting up and going away."

Oswald said this rigid discipline was similar to that used in gathering huge May Day celebrations and other crowds for show purposes.

"I remember when I was in Moscow in 1959 I was just passing in front of the Metropole restaurant when out of the side streets rushed a 10-man police unit which stopped all people on the street from passing in front of the entrance."

OSWALD SAID the police unit surrounded the crowd and kept them hemmed in ("not detouring the flow of traffic as would be expected") for three minutes.

"Right on schedule," Oswald

went on in his scribble-like hand, "an obviously distinguished foreign lady was driven up to the restaurant, where a meeting in her honor had been arranged."

The woman, said Oswald, "was taken through the 'spontaneous welcoming crowd,' after which the police were withdrawn, allowing the passers-by to continue."

Oswald wrote of why relatively few Russians defect.

He said travel was not overly restricted, but that a Russian had to pass certain restrictions to get permission, which, Oswald wrote, included:

"1. That he must be OK'd by the Communist Bureau;

"2. That he must account for the presence of excess money, since speculation is not allowed in the U.S.S.R.;

"3. He must leave behind close relatives, preferably a wife and children or mother and father."

OSWALD CONSIDERED the last point the real clincher.

"The Russians know that a person will not ordinarily leave a delegation or group of tourists to seek asylum if he knows

he'll never see his family again, not alive anyway."

(This was the same man who cabled his mother and brother in Fort Worth after his acceptance by the Russians, "I do not want to see or hear from you ever again. I am beginning a new life and I want none of the old.")

There are collective farms, and then there are collective farms, Oswald wrote:

"Twelve miles out of Moscow is a show collective farm for foreign tourists who ask to see a genuine, average collective farm.

"On it is almost every imaginable help to man possible, including automatic milkers, feeders, even automatic floor cleaners.

"The collective farmers at this place along with their counterparts at the same sort of place just south of Leningrad live in well-built apartment houses with food and clothing stores built right into the first floors.

"For the benefit of someone

who doesn't want to be duped, I suggest you take the Moscow to Brest highway for 24 miles until you come to Uecteesh."

OSWALD SAID by asking directions in this small town, "you can in five minutes find a real collective farm, a village of the small black mud and scrap wood houses seen throughout the Soviet Union.

"And although it's 50 minutes from the Kremlin, it doesn't have electricity or gas. Inside plumbing is unknown and the only automation is that done with a broom."

He went on, "True, the collective farmers may own chickens, a pig or even a cow, as well as his own piece of land, usually one fourth of an acre, but the isolation and agonizingly hard work in summer and fall offsets these 'advantages.'

"Though still without electricity, 'collective farms' have wire-fed radio programs and a speaker in every home. This is part of the propaganda system instigated by Khrushchev to 'bring the cultural level of outlying collective farms up to the level of the city dweller.'"

Oswald must have been bugged by the "ageepoongs" that dot the Russian landscape, for he mentions them in terms of disgust.

"Ageepoongs" are "agitation points," located at desks or small offices. Oswald said somebody manned these places 15 hours a day to distribute propaganda and watch the populace.

HE WROTE:

"They are manned by 'volunteers,' Communist and Young Communist party members. They are for the distribution of pamphlets, bulletins and other party literature, for the more or less informal meetings of groups of Communist party members.

"Formed in the 1920s, they were then points of armed workers, located near to each other, who could put down 'white' uprisings or conveniently arrest anyone in the neighborhood.

"Now their function has partly changed but it's still known that any party member can come in and report disloyal

comments or an unguarded moment on the part of any citizen. There is always a telephone handy here.

"In Minsk there are only 12 movie houses, but 58 ageepoongs are in the telephone book. They can be recognized at a distance by red flags and banners draped over the doors and windows of the respective buildings."

Oswald was fed up with listening to Radio Moscow, it seemed.

They "assure peoples in 81 countries that the Iron Curtain no longer exists, never did exist and is in general a fictitious slander against the Soviet Union thought up by reactionaries.

"Sick!," Oswald closed.

THERE ARE NO all-day TV buffs in Russia, Oswald claimed. He explained:

"Television is organized and shown in order not to interfere with work in industries.

"Mondays to Fridays programs start at 6 in the evening, quite enough to allow any worker to get home in time for the start, but not enough to allow him to take time off to watch television or become a television addict as we have in the U.S.

"Programs finish at 11:00 in the evening so that all the workers can get enough sleep. On Saturdays they start at 3:00 to compensate for the shop work

COMMUNIST PARTY, U. S. A.

23 WEST 24th STREET • NEW YORK 10, N. Y. • MU. 5-5758

July 31, 1963

L. H. Oswald
P O Box 30061
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Oswald:

Your letter to the WORKER has been referred to me for reply.

It is good to know that movements in support of fair play for Cuba has developed in New Orleans as well as in other cities. We do not have any organizational ties with the Committee, and yet there is much material that we issue from time to time that is important for anybody who is concerned about developments in Cuba.

Under separate cover we are sending you some literature.

Sincerely yours,



Arnold Johnson, Director
Information and Lectures Bureau

A letter from an official of U.S. Communist party to Lee Oswald.

day and end at 12:00 or 12:30. Sundays programs start as early as 10:30 in the morning and end at 11 o'clock."

Oswald commented that the television shown was of high caliber — that part other than the usual political propaganda. He said ballet, symphonic music, cartoons for the kids and good movies "break the monotonous run of politics and dry facts and figures."

OSWALD WROTE of elections in the Soviet Union. Of course, only one name is on the ballot and people mark it and drop it in a box at the polling place, usually a school.

About those who would vote against a Communist candidate:

"In each polling place there is a booth for secret balloting (crossing out the candidate and writing in your own). Under Soviet law, anyone can do this.

"Nobody does for the obvious

reason that anyone who enters the booth may be identified.

"There is a Soviet joke about the floor dropping out from anyone stepping into the booth.

"But it's fact that if the entire population used the polling booth they could beat the system. However, years of mass discipline and fears have made the people afraid to attempt any such demonstration."

Writing in a small notebook under the subhead, "The New Era," Oswald predicted that Stalinism might well be revived in the republics of Byelorussia (Minsk is the capital) and Georgia, where Stalin was born.

He tells of the tearing down of a 35-foot Stalin monument in Minsk in November of 1960, just preceding the Nov. 7 revolutionary celebrations. Bulldozers and piledriver were brought in to tear down the bronze and

marble structure, wrote Oswald.

"THE MOST remarkable thing about the destruction of this giant monument," he wrote, "was that work was ceased on the 6th of November, but started again on the 7th, the very day the big parade of workers came by. The monument was right across from the reviewing stand, as it was built to be.

"In full view of all the dignitaries and workers going by, the destruction of Stalin and the symbolic ending of Stalinism (Khrushchev hopes) was concluded.

"But Byelorussia, as in Stalin's native Georgia, is still a stronghold of Stalinism.

"And a revival of Stalinism is a very, very possible thing in those two republics."

Oswald apparently was writing these notes for a paid speech because after he explained about the MVD giving

him monthly money, he wrote at the bottom of one page:

"As for the fee of \$..... (it was blank) I was supposed to receive for this (another blank). I refuse it. I made pretense to accept it only because otherwise I would have been considered a crackpot and not allowed to appear and express my views. After all, who would refuse money?!?"

OSWALD WROTE of many acquaintances he made while in the Soviet Union, goodhearted, kind people and rough and tough (and untrustworthy) Communists who had sold their soul long before to the party and whom Oswald apparently feared.

When he told of his complaints and troubles in the U.S. Marine Corps, he said Russians who had served with the military there "laughed and said we have no discipline.

"But I'm quite sure," he

double-dealing, he said, "many stores would be almost empty if they had to rely on the sporadic, poor quality of goods brought in from the state slaughter houses at high prices."

He wrote further that even a small fruit or milk store can be turned into a "lucrative enterprise" since sufficient proof is hard to come by.

OSWALD COMMENTS on Russian higher education, which he considered better than its counterpart in America.

"We could definitely learn from the rigorous and highly specialized educational system of the Soviet Union," he wrote.

Oswald later comments about what he considered the fallacies of the American way of life.

"I have often wondered," he wrote, "why the communist, capitalist, fascist and anarchist elements in America always

added, "that the 'oohs' and 'ahs' were signs of admiration when I spoke of our 'undisciplined' army—especially the complete absence of political lectures, under our system of separation of army and state, and also the fact that at the end of each workday we could don civvies and pile into a car and go to town to movie or a dance, our own disciplinarians."

Oswald told of widespread embezzling in Russia.

"Corruption in the U.S.S.R. takes a major form in embezzling and greasing of palms as in any purely bureaucratic society. In 1961 the death penalty for embezzlement of state funds in large sums was re-enacted as an answer to widespread pilfering of goods, crops and embezzling of money and state bonds.

"ON ANY COLLECTIVE or state farm there is a certain per cent of state goods illegally appropriated by the collective farmers for their own private use to make up for low wages and therefore low living conditions or for sale to private individuals, stores or at the open market type of bazaar.

"These goods may consist of only a pilfered lamb or piglet or may run in scores of sheep and cows hidden in backwater swamps or thick pine forests and sold by the appropriator piecemeal or in wholesale lots to crooked store supervisors who are supposed to buy state meats and crops at government prices."

Oswald said these crooked store supervisors "pocket the differences of prices from the black market while making entries in their books that such merchandise was bought for state prices."

Oswald wrote that this was common practice. Without such

profess patriotism toward the land and the people, if not the government, although their movements must surely lead to the bitter destruction of all and everything.

"I am quite sure these people must hate not only the government but the culture, heritage and very people itself, and yet they stand up and piously pronounce themselves patriots, displaying their war medals that they gained in conflicts between themselves.

"I wonder what would happen if somebody was to stand up and say he was utterly opposed not only to the government, but to the people, to the entire land and complete foundations of his (sic) socially."

Oswald, it seemed, did just that. When nobody paid him heed, perhaps it was then that his twisted mind turned toward violence of the worst possible kind.

WHILE A STILL-UPSET world has passed judgment on Oswald, one must occasionally wonder what this man thought of himself.

A clue lies near the end of a bunch of notes he must have considered his "book." He wrote:

"Lee Harvey Oswald was born in October, 1939, in New Orleans, La., the son of an insurance salesman whose early death left a (the words 'desire for' were here but later scratched out) mean streak of independence brought on by neglect.

"Entering the U.S. Marine Corps at 17, this streak of independence was strengthened by exotic journeys to Japan, the Philippines, and the scores of odd islands in the Pacific.

"Immediately after serving out his three years in the USMC

he abandoned his (he wrote the word 'family' but later scratched this out too) American life to seek a new life in the U.S.S.R.

"Full of optimism and hope, he stood in Red Square in the fall of 1959 vowing to see his chosen course through. After, however, two years and a lot of growing up, he decided to return to the U.S.A.

"This book is not a study about himself. He is only the narrator. He does think, however, that not too many people, at least Americans, have had the opportunity to look into an often incredible and sometimes terrifying world, but a world whose outward appearance is very like our own, if not quite so gray."