

# Warren Commission Found No Foreign Power

## Involved In Kennedy's Assassination

### SOVIET AND CUBA FURNISHED DATA

#### Inquiry Got Moscow's File on Oswald's Stay in Russia —Rusk Backs Conclusion

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—No Soviet, Cuban or other foreign official or agent gave Lee Harvey Oswald any help, advice or encouragement in the assassination of President Kennedy, the Warren Commission has concluded.

The commission's finding coincided with testimony it received from Secretary of State Dean Rusk that the Soviet Government had no conceivable interest in the murder of the President.

The Commission finding supported Mr. Rusk's report that the assassination frightened rather than pleased the government of Premier Fidel Castro.

The commission accepted as "reasonable and objective" the Administration's judgment that Moscow had an interest in correct state relations with Washington, despite the existence of "grave" political differences.

Nonetheless, the Commission conducted a painstaking search for evidence of direct or indirect foreign influence on Oswald's actions in the assassination.

It found no such influence and sought to rebut contentions of those who thought they had. Both the Soviet and Cuban governments aided the Commission by furnishing some documents from their files on Oswald.

In addition, Commission investigators obtained information and appraisals from American intelligence agencies and unrevealed informants aboard.

The study of Oswald's foreign travels, his 31-month sojourn in the Soviet Union and his dealings with foreign governments yielded no evidence of involvement in any undercover activity — for or against the United States, the commission said.

His travels and conduct

abroad, while extraordinarily appeared to be entirely legal. It determined, and the treatment given him by the Soviet and United States governments, while preferential at times, was under the circumstances neither unusual nor suspicious, it found.

The commission did not minimize Oswald's "commitment to Marxism and Communism" in weighing his possible motives for the assassination. But it satisfied itself that this commitment did not lead him into any conspiracy.

In reviewing Oswald's life, the commission speculated that his sustained interest in the Soviet Union, his defection to that country, his disillusionment there and return to the United States and his attraction to Castro's Cuba were symptoms of the personality traits that ultimately led him to murder the President.

#### Some Blank Spaces

Oswald's life as a defector in Minsk, the capital of the Soviet Union's Byelorussian Republic, from January, 1960, to June, 1962, "is the portion of his life concerning which the least is known," the commission reported.

Its principal sources for this period were Oswald's own writing and the testimony of his wife, Marina, whom he met only after he had applied in February, 1961, to return to the United States.

From other evidence, however, including Soviet documents and investigations by the Central Intelligence Agency, the commission said it was able to verify important features of the Oswald's writings and activities.

Thus the commission felt that there was nothing in these least-known years of Oswald's life to contradict its basic conclusions. All the known facts, it said, argue against any theory that he was lured or recruited by Soviet agents or that he was trained or coached for his eventual return to the United

States. Of Oswald's subsequent dealings with the Soviet Union, that which the commission examined most minutely was a letter he wrote to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, dated Nov. 9, 1963, and apparently mailed in Dallas on Nov. 13, just ten days before the assassination.

#### Obtained from Soviet

The letter was obtained from the Soviet Government as part of a series of exchanges that purports to be the entire correspondence between the Oswalds and the embassy," the commission said.

The correspondence was checked for hidden codes, but none were detected, the commission said. The last letter, however, required extensive investigation because it claimed to be a report about "our business" following Oswald's trip to Mexico, from Sept. 26 to Oct. 1, and visits there to the Cuban and Soviet embassies.

This is to inform you of recent events since my meetings with Comrade Kostin in the Embassy of the Soviet Union, Mexico City, Mexico," the letter began. The C.I.A. determined that this was probably a reference to Valery V. Kostikov, identified as a member of the State Security Committee, or Soviet secret police, but also as a consular officer who he thought to have rejected Oswald's request for prompt permission to visit the Soviet Union again.

After appraising all the ma-

terial gathered about the Mexican trip, the commission concluded that Oswald's real objective was permission to visit Cuba, with the probable intention of remaining there.

#### Rankled by Failure

His failure, after months of effort to impress Castro supporters with his devotion to their cause, rankled him, the commission thought, and led him to seek new ways of establishing his importance.

The suspicious letter to the Soviet Embassy, especially when compared with an earlier handwritten draft, was finally judged to be an intentional misrepresentation of the true state of affairs to make the Mexico trip sound as mysterious and important as possible.

It was, the commission concluded, "no more than a clumsy effort to ingratiate himself with the Soviet Embassy."

The commission made a special study of the circumstances, judgments and laws that enabled Oswald to reassert his American citizenship and to return from the Soviet Union with a Russian wife and child and with the help and financial assistance of the United States Government.

The analysis established that Oswald, despite insulting and offensive conduct toward his country, received from his Government the benefit of almost every doubt within the "proper limits" of legal discretion.

#### Aided by Embassy

He was prevented from rashly renouncing his American citizenship on his arrival in Moscow in October, 1959. He was given help in proving that he still possessed that citizenship in July, 1961. He was given urgent consideration to reverse a ruling that might have barred or delayed his wife's entry to the United States in the spring of 1962.

He was given a generous interpretation of law to let him borrow \$435.71 for the family's journey in June, 1962. And a year later, having repaid the loan, he encountered no difficulty in getting 24-hour service on a new passport for what he said would be a trip to the Soviet Union, Britain, France, the Netherlands, Finland, Italy and Poland.

#### Suspicion Raised

The record had raised suspicion that Oswald obtained special treatment. But the commission rejected that thesis. It did, however, chide the State Department for several administrative lapses that prevented the "flagging" of Oswald's passport file as remarkable and worthy of special scrutiny.

It also reminded the department to exercise "great care" in handling the return of defectors and urged the adoption of better procedures for the dissemination of information about defectors to intelligence

agencies.

Perhaps of greater over-all significance was Secretary Rusk's evaluation of Soviet interests and aspirations in relations with the United States.

any desire to eliminate President Kennedy nor in any way participate in any such event."

Mr. Rusk testified on June 10,

For the Soviet leaders to have taken part in the assassination, he said, would have involved a "madness" on their part that has not been characteristic of their actions in recent years.

The Soviet Government voluntarily delivered to the State Department within a week of the assassination what it said was the entire Oswald file in its Washington Embassy.

Later, on request, it also submitted some materials from files in the Soviet Union.

Among these were Medical records from Botkinskaya Hospital in Moscow, which treated Oswald for a self-inflicted wound on the left wrist in October, 1959, after his first application for Soviet citizenship was denied.

Documents showing that Oswald lived in Minsk from January, 1960, until June, 1962.

A report from Oswald's superior at the "Byelourssian Radio and Television Factory" in Minsk, which is critical of his performance as an "apprentice machinist."

Documents showing that the Oswalds made a series of formal applications in the summer of 1961 for permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Medical records showing that Oswald was confined in the ear, nose and throat division of the clinical hospital in Minsk from March 30 to April 11, 1961, during which time he first proposed marriage to Marina.

The commission's report does not contain a full listing of the Soviet documents. Those cited in the report suggest that Moscow submitted most available documents except the analyses and interrogations compiled by secret police and intelligence agencies.

The commission raised no questions about the legitimacy of the Soviet materials and found independent verification for some of them.

The only Cuban contributions cited in the report, presumably solicited through the Swiss Embassy in Havana, were copies of Oswald's application in Mexico City last September for a visa to pass through Cuba on the way to the Soviet Union and Havana's reply, of which he never knew, approving the application provided he first obtained a Soviet visa.

The commission found that

Oswald had misrepresented himself in the application as a member of the American Communist party and as "secretary" of a New Orleans chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee that never existed.

In fact, the commission established to its satisfaction that Oswald's relationship to the Communist party and other extreme Leftist movements in the United States was never consequential. He sought and obtained some of their literature but had no other dealings.

His activities in the name of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, including the distribution of handbills and ty radio appearances, were found to have been consistently exaggerated by him.

The commission said they "may be viewed as a very shrewd political operation in which one man single-handedly created publicity for his cause or for himself."