UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

April 6, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

1. QUESTION: Was there any FBI interest in Oswald before the April, 1960 FBI interviews of Mrs. Marguerite Oswald and Robert Oswald? If so, what was the nature and extent of the interest? What initiated the April, 1960 questioning of Mrs. Oswald and Robert Oswald?

ANSWER: Yes. The FBI's first interest in Lee Harvey Oswald arose as a result of a "Washington Capital News Service" release datelined October 31, 1959, at Moscow which announced that Oswald, a 20-year-old former United States Marine, advised the United Press International during his press conference in his room at the Metropole Hotel, Moscow, that he had applied to renounce his American citizenship and to become a Soviet citizen for "purely political reasons." He further announced that he would never return to the United States.

We checked our records on October 31, 1959, and determined that our files contained no information identifiable with Oswald other than a service fingerprint card showing his enlistment in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) on October 24, 1956, at Dallas, Texas. On November 2, 1959, we determined through liaison with the United States Navy Department that the files of the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) contained no record of Oswald. On the same date, his record at the Headquarters of the USMC disclosed that Oswald had been released to inactive duty on September 11, 1959, with obligated service until December 8, 1962. No derogatory information was contained in the USMC files concerning Oswald, and ONI advised that no action against him was contemplated in this matter. A stop was placed in the files of the Identification Division of the FBI on November 10, 1959, so as to alert us in the event he returned to the United States under a different identity and his fingerprints were received. A file concerning Oswald was prepared and, as communications were received from other United States Government agencies, those communications were placed in his file. Our basic interest was to correlate information concerning him and to evaluate him as a security risk in the event he returned, in view of the possibility of his recruitment by the Soviet intelligence services.

The questioning of Mrs. Marguerite C. Oswald and Robert Oswald in April, 1960, arose as follows: In connection with our interest in persons who transmit funds to Russia, we determined on January 25, 1960, that Mrs. Marguerite C. Oswald had transmitted

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the sum of $25 to Lee Harvey Oswald in care of the Hotel Metropole, Moscow. That information prompted our interview with Robert Oswald and Marguerite Oswald on April 27, 1960, and April 28, 1960, respectively.

2. QUESTION: At page 31 of the FBI Report on the Investigation of the Assassination of President Kennedy, it is stated that:

> "An FBI investigation of Oswald had been instituted on May 31, 1962, so that the FBI would be notified of his re-entry by Immigration authorities. The purpose of this investigation was to determine if Oswald had been recruited by a Soviet intelligence service."

What was the nature of the FBI's investigation prior to May 31, 1962? Why was the investigation to determine if Oswald had been recruited by Soviet intelligence not instituted earlier, since his plans to return to the United States were known much earlier than May 31, 1962. (According to the report of SA Fain of July 3, 1961, page 10, the files of the State Department Passport Office were reviewed on May 9, 1961, and revealed Oswald's correspondence with the U. S. Embassy in Moscow regarding his desire to return to the United States.)

ANSWER: Prior to May 31, 1962, our investigation involved the development of background information concerning Lee Harvey Oswald and the taking of appropriate steps to insure our being advised of his return to the United States. Such steps included the placing of a stop in our Identification Division records on November 10, 1959, inquiry through liaison channels in October, 1960, at the Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland, the periodic inquiry of State Department and relatives concerning the status of his efforts to return to the United States. Our inquiries at State Department included inquiries on May 9, 1961, August 22, 1961, January 29, 1962, February 28, 1962, March 27, 1962, and May 5, 1962. On May 17, 1962, the State Department furnished information indicating that Oswald was returning to the United States and based upon that information, on May 31, 1962, a communication was directed by FBI Headquarters to the Dallas Office instructing that Oswald be interviewed upon his return. Other than these steps, until his return to the United States, there was no practical investigation which could have been initiated to determine if Oswald had been recruited.

3. QUESTION: Since the State Department advised the FBI on June 4, 1962 of Oswald's scheduled return, why did the FBI apparently wait until June 22, nine days after arrival, to check on his arrival? Why did the FBI not interview Oswald upon his arrival?

ANSWER: We did not wait until June 22, 1962, to check on Oswald's arrival. A news clipping on June 9, 1962, indicated that Oswald was on his way back to the United States and on June 12, 1962, our New York Office confirmed with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that Oswald's name was on the Advanced Manifest for the SS. "Maasdam." Our New York Office subsequently verified with INS the arrival of Oswald, his wife and daughter and determined that they were destined for 7313 Davenport Street, Fort Worth, Texas. The New York Office also determined that INS Inspector Frederick J. Wiedersheim interviewed Oswald upon his arrival in the United States. Oswald told Wiedersheim that he had been employed as a mechanic in Russia, had threatened to renounce his United States citizenship but had never carried out the threat, had never voted in Russia and had not held any position in the Soviet Government.

He was not interviewed by the FBI on his arrival in the United States, since the FBI preferred to interview him after he had established residence, and instructions had been issued to our Dallas Office on May 31, 1962, to this effect.

4. QUESTION: Did the FBI learn of Oswald's return to Fort Worth from his sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert Oswald (who advised on June 26, 1962 that he had arrived in Fort Worth on June 14), or was this information developed independently, and if so, in what way? Was Oswald placed under surveillance upon his arrival in New York, or was the first FBI contact the interview with him on June 26, 1962?

ANSWER: INS advised our New York Office on June 22, 1962, of Oswald's destination as 7313 Davenport Street, Fort Worth, Texas. On May 18, 1962, Mrs. Robert Oswald was interviewed and she promised to advise FBI Agents at Fort Worth immediately upon the arrival of Lee Harvey Oswald in Fort Worth. As Mrs. Robert Oswald did not notify the Agents, she was reinterviewed on June 26, 1962, at which time she advised that Lee Harvey Oswald, his wife and child had arrived in Fort Worth on June 14, 1962, and were currently residing at her address. He was not placed under surveillance upon his arrival in New York as such action was considered undesirable and unnecessary. Our first contact with him was on June 26, 1962.

5. QUESTION: What was the FBI evaluation of Oswald as a result of the June 26, 1962 interview?

ANSWER: The report of SA John W. Fain dated July 10, 1962, at Dallas reported the results of the interview of Oswald on June 26, 1962, by SAs Fain and B. Tom Carter. According to that report, Oswald exhibited an impatient and arrogant attitude and when questioned as to why he made the trip to Russia, Oswald stated he did not care to "relive the past." Oswald did agree to promptly contact the FBI should he be contacted in the future under suspicious circumstances by representatives of Soviet intelligence. SA Fain described Oswald as being generally uncooperative, but said this interview developed no indications that Oswald represented any potential for acts of violence.

6. QUESTION: Why was Oswald interviewed so soon thereafter on August 14, 1962? What was the FBI evaluation of Oswald as a result of this interview? Where was this interview held, how long did it take, and was there anything remarkable about Oswald's demeanor during the course of the interview?

ANSWER: The second interview of Oswald was conducted by SAs John W. Fain and Arnold J. Brown on August 16, 1962. The results of this interview are contained in the report of SA Fain dated August 30, 1962, at Dallas. This interview was in the nature of a follow-up interview to determine Oswald's employment, to again alert him to our interest should he be recontacted by the Soviets and to further evaluate whether or not he represented a security risk to the internal security of the United States. No information was developed during that interview to indicate he constituted a potential threat to the personal safety of the President or to anyone else. This interview was conducted in secure surroundings in an FBI automobile in the vicinity of Oswald's residence (at that time 2703 Mercedes, Fort Worth, Texas). This interview lasted from approximately 4:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Fain and Brown have advised that they noted nothing unusual about Oswald's demeanor during that interview. Brown's recollection of the interview is that Oswald seemed a little evasive but was not belligerent or antagonistic and he gave no indication of being dangerous. Fain recalled that Oswald, during the interview, continued to play down the possibility that the Soviets were interested in contacting him but agreed to contact the FBI should the Soviets initiate contact with him in the future.

7. QUESTION: The Retail Merchants' Credit Association of Fort Worth has stated that the FBI inquired about Oswald on February 27, 1961, and again on February 7, 1963. If these inquiries took place, why are they not mentioned in the FBI reports for the period involved?

ANSWER: Inquiries were made at the Retail Merchants' Credit Association of Fort Worth on February 21, 1961 (not February 27, 1961) and again on February 7, 1963. The purpose of these contacts was to obtain background data for leads concerning Oswald. Since both inquiries determined there was no record, these contacts were not considered pertinent for inclusion in an investigative report.

8. QUESTION: The report of SA Hosty of September 10, 1963, contains the following item:

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Is this information correct as of the date indicated, and does it describe activities which occurred before Oswald's move to New Orleans?

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Our informant did not know Oswald personally and could furnish no further information. Our investigation had not disclosed such activity on Oswald's part prior to this type of activity in New Orleans.

9. QUESTION: How and when did the FBI learn of Oswald's move to New Orleans?

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10. QUESTION: What prompted the New Orleans FBI Office inquiry into Oswald's activities, which inquiry appears to have begun at least as early as June 26, 1963? (See report of SA Kaack, October 31, 1963, page 3.)

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11. QUESTION: Why are items about Oswald's residence and employment in New Orleans set forth in almost identical form in the report of SA Hosty of the Dallas FBI Office (September 10, 1963) and the report of SA Kaack of the New Orleans FBI Office (October 31, 1963)? Why is there no other mention in the Hosty report of information set forth in the Kaack report under dates earlier than the date of the Hosty report, and in several instances under dates earlier than the items about residence and employment that appeared in both reports?

Kaack - See Helic Subs Index

ANSWER: Oswald's residence and employment in New Orleans, Louisiana, were verified by the New Orleans Office of the FBI on August 5, 1963, and this information was furnished to the Dallas Office by letter dated August 13, 1963. This data was included in the report of SA James P. Hosty, Jr., dated September 10, 1963, to record that Oswald had left the Dallas Office territory and had moved to New Orleans. Since this information was originally developed by the New Orleans Office, when SA Milton R. Kaack submitted his report dated October 31, 1963, at New Orleans, he included that information concerning Oswald's employment and

residence. The additional information reported in SA Kaack's report, developed both prior to and subsequent to SA Hosty's report, was not sent to Dallas inasmuch as the New Orleans Office planned to and did include that information in its report.

12. QUESTION: Did SA Quigley, who interviewed Oswald at the New Orleans jail, or SA Kaack, who prepared a report on Oswald, review earlier FBI reports on Oswald? Were they aware that, contrary to his statement, Oswald had not lived with his mother following discharge from the Marine Corps, but rather had gone to Russia? Were they aware that, contrary to his statement, his wife's maiden name was not "Prossa", and that they had not married in Fort Worth but in Russia?

ANSWER: SA John L. Quigley's interview with Oswald at the New Orleans Police Department jail on August 10, 1963, was based on a telephone call from the police to the effect that Oswald had been arrested for disturbing the peace on August 9, 1963, in distributing FPCC leaflets and that Oswald had requested to see an FBI Agent. SA Quigley listened to what Oswald had to say and made it a matter of record. Quigley had not had an opportunity to review prior interviews and investigation of Oswald. SA Milton R. Kaack, who prepared a report concerning Oswald dated October 31, 1963, did review the results of prior FBI investigation concerning Oswald and he, of course, was aware of the various contradictions in the information furnished by Oswald. In the event the investigation of Oswald warranted a further interview, these discrepancies would have been discussed with him.

13. QUESTION: The information about Oswald's residence and employment in New Orleans is also substantially duplicated in the report of SA De Brueys of October 25, 1963 on the Fair Play for Cuba Committee -- New Orleans Division. Why, however, is Mrs. Oswald described only as "his wife" in the Hosty and Kaack report entries concerning residence information given by Mrs. Jessie Garner, while the De Bruey's report identifies her more specifically as "his wife, Marina Nikolaevna Oswald" in the same reference to Mrs. Garner's statement? Was either SA Quigley or SA Kaack aware of this indication that Mrs. Oswald's maiden name was not "Prossa"?

ANSWER: The reports of SA James P. Hosty dated September 10, 1963, SA Milton R. Kaack, dated October 31, 1963, at New Orleans, both captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald" and the report of SA Warren C. De Brueys, dated October 25, 1963, at New Orleans

captioned "Fair Play for Cuba Committee - New Orleans Division" accurately set forth the basic information in this instance and in substance all three reports contain the same information with respect to Oswald's employment and residence. At the time SA John L. Quigley interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald on August 10, 1963, and prepared the results of that interview, he set forth the maiden name of Oswald's wife as it was furnished to him by Oswald. SA Kaack's report dated October 31, 1963, at New Orleans, pages 6 through 10, incorporated the results of SA Quigley's interview of Oswald. Inasmuch as Oswald had furnished Marina's maiden name to SA Quigley as "Prossa," it was so recorded in SA Kaack's report. SA De Brueys set forth the full name of Oswald's wife and the other two Agents did not feel it was necessary to do so in the context of their reports.

14. QUESTION: What was the FBI reaction to the advice obtained on August 30, 1963 from Mr. Bill Stuckey that Oswald had told him he had worked and been married in Russia as contrasted with his inconsistent statements to SA Quigley on August 10?

ANSWER: That Oswald's statements to Mr. Stuckey were inconsistent with Oswald's statements to SA John L. Quigley on August 10, 1963, was recognized. These inconsistencies were considered in subsequent investigation. In the event the investigation of Oswald warranted a further interview, these discrepancies would have been discussed with him.

15. QUESTION: The report of SA Quigley of October 31, 1963 states that on August 22, 1963 Radio Station WDSU made available a transcript of the radio broadcast in which Oswald participated on August 21, 1963. Why does the report of SA De Brueys of October 25, 1963 not include this item, but state instead that on September 12, 1963 a confidential informant made available a transcript of the same radio broadcast?

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16. QUESTION: The report of SA Kaack of October 31, 1963 states that on October 1, 1963 a confidential informant who was acquainted with some phases of Communist Party activities in New Orleans, advised that Oswald was unknown to him. Why does this item not appear in the report of SA De Brueys, which instead includes a similar reference to a statement by a confidential informant made on October 15, 1963, that the informant did not know of Oswald or his wife? Why does this item not appear in the Kaack report?

ANSWER: The informant listed as confidential informant NO T-8 in the report of SA Milton R. Kaack dated October 31, 1963, at New Orleans entitled "Lee Harvey Oswald; IS - R - Cuba" is the same individual identified as NO T-2 in the report of SA Warren C. De Brueys dated October 25, 1963, at New Orleans entitled "Fair Play for Cuba Committee -- New Orleans Division; RA - Cuba; IS - Cuba." Therefore, both of these reports set forth the same information as to Lee Harvey Oswald. SA Kaack's report shows this informant was contacted on October 1, 1963, and had no information concerning Lee Harvey Oswald. SA De Brueys' report shows this same informant was contacted on October 15, 1963, and was questioned concerning the FPCC activities in New Orleans and Oswald and his wife. This is in accordance with our custom to check with confidential informants having knowledge of communist and subversive activities to determine if they know of the subject under investigation. There is no inconsistency in the reporting in these two reports.

17. QUESTION: The De Brueys report of October 25, 1963 states that on October 7, 1963 a confidential informant advised that P. O. Box 30016 did not exist in the New Orleans area, and on the same date inquiry at the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau failed to turn up any record of an A. J. Hidell. Why do these items not appear in the report of SA Kaack of October 31, 1963?

ANSWER: SA Milton R. Kaack did not repeat in his report of October 31, 1963, the negative record checks with the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau or a check of the city directory in New Orleans regarding A. J. Hidell nor did he report the negative check to determine the subscriber to P. O. Box 30016, inasmuch as he had already determined the correct P. O. Box 30061, which was rented by Oswald on June 3, 1963.

18. QUESTION: When did the FBI first obtain from the New Orleans Police Department the list of Russian names and telephone numbers which had been obtained from Oswald's wallet at the time of his arrest? If this information was retained by the New Orleans Police Department but not made available until after the assassination, has the FBI received any explanation for this delay?

ANSWER: The FBI first obtained a copy of the list of Russian names and telephone numbers on November 29, 1963. This list was made available to our New Orleans Office by Lieutenant Francis L. Martello of the New Orleans Police Department, who explained that this data had inadvertently been placed with pamphlets, leaflets and booklets taken from Oswald at the time of his arrest on August 9, 1963. Martello said he had not submitted a report until contacted on November 29, 1963. Martello's report is set forth on pages 364-373 of the report of SA Warren C. De Brueys dated December 2, 1963, at Dallas, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald."

19. QUESTION: How did the FBI evaluate Oswald's voluntary request to be interviewed by the FBI in New Orleans, particularly in view of the attitude he displayed at earlier interviews?

ANSWER: As is customary with the FBI, when an individual requests an interview, we accommodate him and make a recording of the interview. This was done in the case of Oswald when he requested through the New Orleans Police to be interviewed on August 10, 1963. The results were set forth by SA John L. Quigley following the interview. It was apparent from the interview with Oswald on August 10, 1963, that he was making a self-serving statement in an attempt to explain his activities in connection with his distributing leaflets for the FPCC.

20. QUESTION: What was the FBI evaluation of Oswald as a result of the August 10, 1963 interview? What was the FBI evaluation of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee during the summer of 1963, and of Oswald's work for it?

ANSWER: During the interview of Lee Harvey Oswald on August 10, 1963, he appeared to be responsive in furnishing general background information concerning himself and some information concerning the FPCC. However, his attitude changed when he was

pressed for details regarding meetings and identities of other FPCC members in New Orleans and he obviously was evasive and uncooperative as indicated by his statements that although he knew other FPCC members by their first names, he could not recall such names and further by his refusal to disclose how he contacted other alleged FPCC members in New Orleans for purpose of notifying them of meetings held allegedly at Oswald's residence in New Orleans.

At no time during the August 10, 1963, interview with Oswald by SA Quigley did Oswald give any indication he was potentially dangerous or might engage in an act of physical violence.

In regard to the FPCC during the Summer of 1963, you are advised that our investigation during that period in New Orleans disclosed no existence of organized FPCC activities in the New Orleans area. The only activities in behalf of the FPCC appeared to be those efforts made by Oswald. Inasmuch as there were no FPCC activities in New Orleans prior to Oswald's activities in behalf of this organization in New Orleans and since there have been no FPCC activities in New Orleans subsequent to Oswald's departure from New Orleans in September, 1963, it appears that the only activities of such organization in New Orleans were those promoted by Oswald.

In regard to over-all activity of the FPCC during the Summer of 1963 throughout the United States, we have noted that your letter of March 26, 1964, to this Bureau requested in detail data we possessed concerning such organization. Therefore, we are responding to your March 26, 1964, letter by separate communication.

21. QUESTION: Why did the FBI Investigation Division furnish an identification record to the New Orleans FBI Office consisting of a description of the two occasions on which the FBI had received Oswald's fingerprints: first, upon his entry into the Marine Corps; second, upon his arrest in New Orleans? Why was this information furnished under FBI number 327 925 D, and not under Oswald's FBI Bureau File Number which is 105-82555?

ANSWER: It is the policy of this Bureau when the subject of a security investigation of interest to this Bureau is arrested, a complete copy of his identification record as maintained by the FBI Identification Division is furnished to the office concerned for its information.

Under FBI procedures, the FBI Identification Division maintains a separate filing system for handling fingerprint records. In this particular instance, the FBI identification record of Oswald is 327 925 D. The investigative file on the subject is handled under a different file number. In connection with Oswald, this Bureau utilized file number 105-82555 to handle the investigation of Oswald.

22. QUESTION: The FBI Report on the Investigation of the Assassination of President Kennedy, page 39, states that in October, 1963, an investigation was initiated to ascertain the whereabouts of the Oswalds, following advice from a rental agent that they had vacated their apartment and that Mrs. Oswald and their child had departed in a station wagon with Texas registration. What was the reason for this investigation to ascertain Oswald's whereabouts?

ANSWER: In view of Oswald's background and activities the FBI had a continuing interest in him. Therefore, when the rental agent advised on October 1, 1963, that the Oswalds had moved, investigation was initiated to determine their current whereabouts.

24. QUESTION: Was the FBI aware of Oswald's application on June 24, 1963 for a passport, or the issuance of a passport on June 25, 1963? Why did the FBI not request that the Passport Office of the Department of State include Oswald on a list which would have resulted in advice to the FBI of any application for a passport?

ANSWER: The FBI was not aware of Oswald's application on June 24, 1963, for a passport or of the issuance of a passport to Oswald on June 25, 1963.

We did not request the State Department to include Oswald on a list which would have resulted in advising us of any application for a passport inasmuch as the facts relating to Oswald's activities at that time did not warrant such action. Our investigation of Oswald had disclosed no evidence that Oswald was acting under the instructions or on behalf of any foreign government or instrumentality thereof.

25. QUESTION: What prompted the FBI efforts to locate Oswald on October 18 in Fort Worth, or Robert Oswald on October 19 in Fort Worth (before receiving advice on October 25, 1963, that Oswald had given the New Orleans Post Office a forwarding address in Irving, Texas)?

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ANSWER: Information from Mrs. Jessie James Garner, 4909 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 1, 1963, to the effect that Oswald and his wife had vacated their apartment at 4905 Magazine Street, New Orleans, on September 25, 1963, and that Mrs. Oswald and child had departed in a station wagon bearing Texas license plates prompted our efforts to locate Oswald at Fort Worth, Texas.

26. QUESTION: Why did the FBI make three attempts within eight days (October 29 - November 5, 1963) to locate Oswald? After being advised of his place of employment by Mrs. Paine, did the FBI attempt to locate him through that lead? Were any further efforts made between November 5 and November 22 to locate Oswald, and if not, why not?

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27. QUESTION: Did SA Hosty interview Marina Oswald and Mrs. Paine alone on November 1, 1963, or was he accompanied by another agent or agents? At what time of day did SA Hosty conduct the interview on November 1, 1963, and did he receive any advice regarding the time when Oswald was expected to visit Mrs. Paine's house that day, or when he might be there on another day?

ANSWER: SA Hosty was alone when he interviewed Mrs. Ruth Paine on November 1, 1963. Marina Oswald entered the room during the course of the interview but was not formally interviewed by SA Hosty at that time or any other time.

The interview was conducted approximately 2:30 p.m. SA Hosty did not receive or specifically ask for information as to when Oswald was expected to visit Mrs. Paine's house on that day or a later day. The information in which we were primarily interested had been established--Oswald was in Dallas and was employed in nonstrategic work.

30. QUESTION: When and for what reason were pages 279 through 283 of the report of SA Gemberling of February 11, 1964 prepared (setting forth the entries in Oswald's address book which had not been included in the report of SA Gemberling of December 23, 1963)?

ANSWER: Pages 279 through 283 of the report of SA Gemberling dated February 11, 1964, were prepared at the time such report was being typed by the Dallas Office during the few-day period immediately preceding submission of such report to FBI headquarters by the Dallas Office. In this connection, your attention is also directed to this Bureau's letter to the Commission dated February 27, 1964, enclosing an affidavit executed by SA Robert P. Gemberling explaining in detail his handling and reporting of data in Lee Harvey Oswald's address book. You will note that in his affidavit, SA Gemberling explains why certain data in Oswald's address book was reported in his December 23, 1963, report, whereas the remaining data in Oswald's address book was reported in SA Gemberling's February 11, 1964, report.