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New Orleans Is Key To the Oswald Story

NEW ORLEANS—Chief of Police Joseph I. Giarrusso reopened for this writer Lee Harvey Oswald's arrest file here. Step by step, Lieut. Thomas A. Drake, Chief of the Police Department Intelligence Division, led me through Oswald's entire New Orleans career.

Recently I wrote: "Surely Oswald knew that, whether Castro directed it or not, if he killed the President of the United States (a secret the Reds would most certainly keep) he would be an inside hero in the Havana hierarchy, and a hero for the first time in his life."

New Orleans, not Dallas, is the place to root out the truth about Lee Oswald. He was born here. He grew up here. He returned here with his Russian wife.

Millions have been led to believe Oswald was a crackpot. Systematically shoveling out this nonsense has a purpose. But in a century of nonsense this is the greatest nonsense of all. Oswald was no more a crackpot than Police Chief Giarrusso himself. The current furor about William Manchester's "The Death of a President," the rekindled controversy about the Dallas bullets, etc., only further distract our public from the correct picture of Oswald and the exact sequence of events that culminated in his crime.

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DATES ARE VITAL in this. Yet their sequence is obscured within the size and diversity of the Warren Report. Here is the sequence of dates for you to ponder:

Lee Harvey Oswald sailed from New Orleans for Russia on September 20, 1959. His Soviet career need not be repeated, except that on October 21 he told American Embassy officials that he was a dedicated Communist and confirmed in writing that "my allegiance is to the U.S.S.R."

Oswald came back to the United States on June 13, 1962, with his Russian wife, Marina Prusakova, and their child. They settled first in Fort Worth, Texas, and then here. New Orleans police date Oswald's arrival in this city as April 24, 1963, the year of the assassination.

On June 3 he opened P. O. Box No. 30061 at the Lafayette Square Substation, and included his alias of A. J. Hidell for the mail use of his pro-Communist Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

On August 9 Lieut. William Gaillot arrested Oswald during a scuffle while demonstrating for Castro's cause. By August 31 he had achieved enough local notoriety to debate on radio station WDSU.

On September 8, over Radio Havana, Castro bitterly denounced what he called U. S.-prompted raids on Cuba and stated: "The United States leaders would be in danger if they helped any attempt to do away with the leaders of Cuba."

On September 13 the Dallas Times-Herald announced that President Kennedy would visit the city November 22.

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ON SEPTEMBER 25 Oswald left here by bus to obtain a Cuban transit visa at Castro's Mexico City Embassy. There he presented New Orleans newspaper clippings about his pro-Castro activities, announced that he was a member of the Communist party, displayed his Russian work permit, Russian marriage certificate, a prepared statement of his qualifications as a dedicated Marxist and, even in the words of the Warren Report, "tried to curry favor."

Told that his visa could not be issued for several months, he left Mexico City October 2 for Fort Worth and Dallas.

On November 9 Oswald wrote his last letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, reporting on "my meetings with Comrade Kostin in the Embassy, Mexico City." Again, the Warren Report agrees, the purpose was "to ingratiate himself."

On November 19 the Dallas newspapers announced the President's route.

On November 22, a few seconds after 12:30 p.m., Central Standard Time, Lee Harvey Oswald shot the President of the United States.

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