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UPI-259

(OSWALD)

WASHINGTON--THE PRIME SUSPECT IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION IS A SELF-ADMITTED "MARXIST" WHO SPENT THREE YEARS IN RUSSIA TRYING TO RENOUNCE HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, BUT GOT A U.S.M GOVERNMENT-PAID PASSAGE HOME WHEN HE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.

THE ONE TIME DEFECTOR WAS IDENTIFIED AS LEE H. OSWALD, 24, A FORMER MARINE, AND CHAIRMAN OF A "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE." OSWALD WAS BORN IN NEW ORLEANS OCT. 18, 1939. TWENTY YEARS LATER, ON OCT. 30, 1959, HE APPEARED AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, TELLING OFFICIALS THAT HE WANTED TO RENOUNCS HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. AT THE TIME, HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD OFFICIALS THAT "I AM A MARXIST."

THE FBI CONFIRMED THAT OSWALD DID GOTO TUSSIA AND HAD ASKED FOR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP. HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN DISCHARGED FROM THE MARINE CORPS.

IN FEBRUARY, 1962, HE APPARENTLY HAD A CHANGE OF HEART. HE WROTE THE EMBASSY ASKING FOR A PASSPORT TO THE UNITED STATES. IN THE MEANTIME HE HAD MARRIED A RUSSIAN WOMAN, MARINA NICHOLAEVNA, A HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE IN THE CITY OF MINSK. THEY HAVE ONE CHILD. EMBASSY OFFICIALS REVIEWED HIS CASE. SINCE HE HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN SOVIET CITIZENSHIP, IT WAS DECIDED TO GIVE HIM A PASSPORT TO THE UNITED STATES.

GOVERNMENT RECORDS SHOW HE LEFT MOSCOW AT THE END OF MAY, 1962. THE EMBASSY ADVANCED HIM \$435 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF HIS TRIP. A CUSTOMARY PRACTICE IN THE CASES OF AMERICANS STRANDED IN A FOREIGN NATION. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF HE EVER REPAID THE LOAN.

THIS YEAR OSWALD APPLIED FOR ANOTHER PASSPORT. HE TOLD THE STATE DEPARTMENT HE WANTED TO VISIT ENGLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY HOLLAND, FINLAND, ITALY, POLAND, AND THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO MAKE THE TRIP BETWEEN OCTOBER, 1963, AND DECEMBER OR JANUARY, 1964. THE PASSPORT WAS ISSUED AT NEW ORLEANS JUNE 25, 1963. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, IF OSWALD EVER REPAID THE MONEY LOANED FOR HIS PASSAGE BACK TO THE UNITED STATES OR HIS FIRST TRIP.

IF HE DIDNOT, A NEWPASSPORT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ISSUED.

11/22--EG619PES

Check as to this

*Mem to
Sullivan
11/25/63
WJM*

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2/5/64*