

Ex-Marine Applies To Be Soviet Citizen

Texan, 20, Cites Step As 'Purely Political'

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

MOSCOW, Oct. 31.—Lee Harvey Oswald, twenty-year-old former Marine from Ft. Worth, Tex., said here today he has asked to become a Soviet citizen "purely for political reasons" and added, "I will never return to the United States."

The slender, sober-faced Oswald declined to say what prompted his action "until after I receive my Soviet citizenship." American Embassy officials said Mr. Oswald told them he arrived in the U. S. S. R. on Oct. 15 and wrote a letter the next day to the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) asking for Soviet citizenship.

Told to Wait

The officials said the young man had asked to renounce his American citizenship, but that they told him to wait until he had a reply to his letter requesting Soviet citizenship. They said he promised to advise them of developments, but was adamant about the action he was contemplating.

Mr. Oswald is the third American recently to apply for Soviet citizenship. Nicholas Petrulli, of Valley Stream, N. Y., changed his mind and returned to the United States. Robert E. Webster, of Cleveland, a plastics technician who worked at the American Exhibition in Moscow, was granted Soviet citizenship and now is said to be working in Leningrad.

Won't Discuss It

Mr. Oswald told reporters in his Metropole Hotel room he would not discuss his case with them because "I am afraid what I say may be distorted by some newspapers." Asked if he had been a student of political economy, he replied, "Absolutely not."

He also said he thought Soviet authorities "might not want me to say anything" about this action. He added he expects a reply from Soviet officials soon on his application for citizenship in this country.

Embassy officials said Mr. Oswald stated he was released recently from the Marine Corps and never had a regular job. He declined to tell reporters what he wants to do here.

Was an Average Guy

FORT WORTH, Tex., Oct. 31 (UPI).—"I always thought he was an average guy, but I sure don't now," said Mrs. R. L. Oswald today when she learned that her brother-in-law, Lee Oswald, had decided to become a Soviet citizen.

Mrs. Oswald said he "never talked much about politics, or Russia or anything." She added that he had attended Arlington High School here "but I don't think he graduated."

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N. Y. Herald Tribune

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105-3543
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
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NOV 1 1964
FBI - NEW YORK

105-82555-26
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