

Letters by Oswald Not Critical of U.S.

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FORT WORTH, Dec. 8—Letters that Lee H. Oswald wrote to his mother while he was in the Soviet Union show him eager to return to the small luxuries and the unrestricted reading he enjoyed in the United States.

In 16 letters disclosed by his mother Oswald expressed no hostility toward the United States. However, the letters, written during the last year of Oswald's defection, show that he expected his return passage to the United States to be paid for as a gift by American organizations.

When this assistance was not extended, he accepted a loan from the United States Em-

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bassy in Moscow for the travel expenses of himself, his wife and infant daughter.

(In New York, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee has given the Federal Bureau of Investigation six letters that it said showed Oswald had set himself up as a New Orleans representative of the committee without sanction of the national office.)

After the assassination of President Kennedy, the Federal Bureau of Investigation took two of Oswald's letters for study. They have not yet been returned to his mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, who permitted the remaining letters to be inspected today.

Denied Seeking Citizenship

She said that one letter taken by the F.B.I. included her son's answer after she had written in 1961 asking him if he intended to become a Soviet citizen.

"Don't worry, mother," she quoted him as replying, "I will never become a Soviet citizen."

The other letter mentioned that he had written to John B. Connally, then Secretary of the Navy, to protest that his service discharge had been changed from "honorable" to "undesirable" because of his defection.

Mr. Connally, now Governor of Texas, was wounded during the assassination of the President.

"He just wrote that he had written to the Pentagon and had gotten an answer from a general about his discharge," Mrs. Oswald said. "There was no bitterness in the letter."

Oswald, accused of assassinating President Kennedy Nov. 22, was shot and killed in the Dallas City Jail two days later by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner.

An avowed Marxist, Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in October, 1959. By appealing directly to the Kennedy Administration early in 1961, his mother received his Russian address and began writing to Oswald, then 21 years old.

Oswald, poor at spelling and indifferent to punctuation, answered his mother with brief letters, usually thanking her for small gifts she had sent him. He said he missed chewing gum, chocolate bars, American shaving cream and news magazines.

Oswald asked often about his older brother, Robert, with

whom he also corresponded, and an older stepbrother, John Edward Pic.

When he began writing to his mother, Oswald was dissatisfied with his life in the Soviet Union and was planning to return to the United States. He considered leaving his Russian wife, Marina, and sending for her when her visa was approved.

Noted Soviet Censorship

The scarcity of reading matter in English and Soviet censorship over literature appeared to be his chief complaints.

"I only would like something to read if they allow it to be sent here," he wrote in August, 1961.

In an earlier letter, dated June 28, 1961, he asked his mother to send him "the pocket novel '1984' by Wells. He apparently referred to George Orwell's novel about life in a totalitarian state of the future and mistakenly attributed the book to H. G. Wells.

After his return to the United States, Oswald checked out several nonfiction volumes on Communism from The New Orleans Public Library.

Mrs. Oswald has said that her son never discussed ideology or his political affiliations with her, and there are few political overtones to his letters.

"On the 7 of November," he wrote in one letter, "there will be a holiday here, Revolution Day. So I'll get to sleep late. Ha Ha."

The Bolshevik Revolution began in Russia on Nov. 7, 1917.

In December of 1961, Oswald wrote that he wished he would be home for Christmas. "They don't, of course, celebrate Christmas here," he said.

When he was finally notified, early in 1962, that he and his wife and daughter would be granted exit visas from the Soviet Union, Oswald described the announcement as "pretty good news."

His instructions to his mother were explicit. She was to notify the Red Cross in Vernon, Tex., where she was then living. The Red Cross, in turn, was to notify the "International Rescue Committee," which would help him upon his return to the United States.

He said he would need about \$800 for tickets from Moscow to Texas, by way of New York.

"I want you to try to get the money through some organization, and not try to collect it yourself, alone, he wrote.

"Do not, of course, take any loan, only a gift. And don't send your own money." The word own was underlined once.

Oswald also sent an affectionate letter, which he said his wife had dictated, thanking Mrs. Oswald for gifts and pictures and expressing a wish to meet her soon.