

Aid to Oswald Denied

Senator Says No Intervention Was Made on Repatriation Appeal

To the Editor of The New York Times:

In The Times of Dec. 8 in a news article entitled "Lee Harvey Oswald—The Man and the Mystery," a paragraph needs to be amplified for the sake of history.

Referring to my part in the story, the writer notes that Lee Harvey Oswald wrote my office in January 1962 and that I then referred the letter to the State Department. The writer notes further that "after Senator Tower referred the matter to the State Department, the embassy amended Oswald's passport to include his wife and a daughter, June Lee, born Feb. 15, 1962."

This is technically correct, but some readers have interpreted it to mean that I aided in the return of Oswald to this country, which is in complete contradiction of the facts in the matter.

The facts of the matter are as follows, and this information was given to all reporters: My office received a letter from Oswald in January of 1962, asking for aid in return to this country. The letter was forwarded to the State Department on Jan. 26, with this comment:

"Enclosed is correspondence I have received from a Lee H. Oswald.

"I do not know Mr. Oswald, or any of the facts concerning his reasons for visiting the Soviet Union; nor what action, if any, this Government can or should take on his behalf.

"... I am forwarding this correspondence to you for whatever action the department may consider appropriate."

Affidavit of Allegiance

The Department of State replied, according to my files, by telephone on Feb. 1, 1962, to the effect that, "On Nov. 2, 1958, Mr. Oswald swore to the following affidavit: 'I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic.' He requested that his American citizenship be revoked. He now wishes to return to the U. S. with his Soviet wife, who is pregnant."

The conversation between a member of my staff and a Mr. Stanfield in the department continued in a vein that caused the staff member to make the following notation on the memorandum dealing with the matter: "Senator should not become involved in such a case—therefore

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State will report to us the course which they follow regarding Lee Harvey Oswald."

Given the information concerning Oswald's background I closed the case. As I have said publicly since then, I had no desire to intervene in behalf of a man who had renounced his United States citizenship and sworn allegiance to the Soviet Union.

I never again heard of Lee Harvey Oswald until the tragic death of our President.

JOHN G. TOWER.
U. S. Senator from Texas.
Washington, Dec. 12, 1963.