

On March 3, 1964, YURI IVANOVICH NOSENKO advised that at the time of OSWALD's arrival in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in the Fall of 1959, he (NOSENKO) held the position of Deputy Chief, First Section, Seventh Department, Second Chief Directorate (counterintelligence), KGB (Committee for State Security). This particular Section, of which he was then Deputy Chief, handled the KGB investigations of tourists from the United States and British Commonwealth countries.

The First Section, at that time, and at present, contains fifteen or sixteen officers, holding ranks of Junior Case Officers, Case Officers and Senior Case Officers. At the time of President JOHN F. KENNEDY's assassination, NOSENKO stated he then held the position of Deputy Chief, Seventh Department, (Tourist Department), Second Chief Directorate, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The Seventh Department, consisting of approximately ninety Case Officers, is responsible for KGB investigations of tourists from all non-communist countries.

Prior to OSWALD's arrival in the USSR he was completely unknown to the KGB, according to NOSENKO. In this connection he pointed out that immediately upon issuance of a visa to a person to visit the USSR, the Seventh Department (Tourist), Second Chief Directorate, KGB, is notified. At that time a preliminary evaluation is made of the individual and a determination made as to what action, if any, should be taken by the Tourist Department. OSWALD's background was not of sufficient importance for the Tourist Department to have any advance interest in him and NOSENKO stated that his first knowledge of the existence of OSWALD arose in about October, 1959, when KIM GEORGIEVICH KRUPNOV, a Case Officer in his section, reported to him information which KRUPNOV had received from an Intourist interpreter. It was to the effect that OSWALD, an American citizen who had entered the USSR on a temporary visa, desired to remain permanently in the USSR and to become a Soviet citizen. KRUPNOV at this time displayed to NOSENKO a memorandum prepared by KRUPNOV containing information which had been received by KRUPNOV from KGB informants at the Hotel Berlin (which administratively is part of the Hotel Metropole) concerning OSWALD's behavior patterns, an Intourist itinerary for OSWALD, and a two-page report prepared by the Intourist interpreter (a KGB informant) concerning his conversations with OSWALD and his impressions and evaluations of OSWALD. At that time a file was opened in NOSENKO's section incorporating all of the information which KRUPNOV had collected.

On 3/3 & 4/64 at Fairfax County, Virginia File # WFO 105-37111
by SAs ALEKSO POPTANICH and W. MARVIN GHEESLING: /jmm Date dictated 3/4/64

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A report from the hospital was received which gave the circumstances of OSWALD's admittance to the hospital, treatment received including blood transfusion, and the report stated OSWALD had attempted suicide because he was not granted permission to remain in the USSR. The hospital record also included an evaluation that OSWALD's attempted suicide indicated mental instability. NOSENKO did not know whether this evaluation was based on a psychiatric examination or was merely an observation of the hospital medical staff. NOSENKO also learned that upon OSWALD's discharge from the hospital he was again informed by Intourist that he could not reside in the USSR and OSWALD stated he would commit suicide.

NOSENKO did not know who made the decision to grant OSWALD permission to reside temporarily in the USSR, but he is sure it was not a KGB decision and he added that upon learning of this decision the KGB instructed that OSWALD not be permitted to reside in the Moscow area. NOSENKO suggested that either the Soviet Red Cross or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made the decision to permit OSWALD to reside in the USSR and also made the decision to assign him to Minsk. NOSENKO attached no particular significance to the fact that OSWALD was settled in Minsk but offered the opinion that since Minsk is a capital city of one of the Republics and is an above-average Soviet city in cleanliness and modern facilities, it was selected in order to create a better impression on OSWALD, a foreigner.

After the KGB was advised of the decision to authorize OSWALD to reside in Minsk it was necessary for KRUPNOV to bring OSWALD's file up to date for purpose of transferring it to the KGB Office in Minsk. This was done and the file was forwarded to Minsk by a cover letter prepared by KRUPNOV. That cover letter briefly summarized OSWALD's case and specifically instructed that KGB, Minsk, take no action concerning OSWALD except to "passively" observe his activities to make sure he was not a United States intelligence agent temporarily dormant. KRUPNOV's letter was read by NOSENKO and signed by DUBAS.

NOSENKO stated that in view of instructions from KGB, Moscow, no active interest could be taken in OSWALD in Minsk without obtaining prior approval from KGB, Moscow. According to NOSENKO no such approval was ever requested or granted and based on his experience, he opined that the only coverage of OSWALD during his stay in Minsk consisted of periodic checks at his place of employment, inquiry of neighbors, associates and review of his mail.

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The next time NOSENKO heard of OSWALD was in connection with OSWALD's application to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City for a Soviet re-entry visa. NOSENKO did not know how Mexico City advised Moscow of subject's application. His knowledge resulted from an oral inquiry of NOSENKO's department by M. I. TURALIN, Service Number Two, (counterintelligence in foreign countries), First Chief Directorate. NOSENKO recalled that TURALIN had orally contacted VLADIMIR KUZMICH ALEKSEEV, Chief, Sixth Section of NOSENKO's Tourist Department, with respect to OSWALD. NOSENKO's Department had no interest in OSWALD and recommended that OSWALD's request for a re-entry visa be denied. NOSENKO could not recall when OSWALD visited Mexico City in connection with his visa application.

NOSENKO's next knowledge of OSWALD's activities arose as a result of President JOHN F. KENNEDY's assassination. NOSENKO recalled that about two hours after President KENNEDY had been shot he was telephonically advised at his home by the KGB Center of this fact. A short time later he was telephonically advised of the President's death. About two hours later NOSENKO was advised that OSWALD had been arrested, and NOSENKO and his staff were called to work for purpose of determining whether the KGB had any information concerning OSWALD. After establishing OSWALD's identity from KGB files and ascertaining that OSWALD's file was still in Minsk, NOSENKO, on instructions of General OLEG M. GRIBANOV, Chief of the Second Chief Directorate of the KGB, telephonically contacted the KGB Office in Minsk and had them dictate a summary of the OSWALD file. NOSENKO did not personally accept this summary, but it was taken down by an employee of his department. As reported by NOSENKO at the time of his interview on February 26, 1964, this summary concluded with a statement that the KGB at Minsk had endeavored "to influence OSWALD in the right direction." As reported by NOSENKO, this latter statement greatly disturbed GRIBANOV since the KGB Headquarters had instructed that no action be taken concerning OSWALD except to passively observe his activities. Accordingly, GRIBANOV ordered all records at Minsk pertaining to OSWALD be forwarded immediately to Moscow by military aircraft with an explanation concerning the meaning of the above-mentioned statement. NOSENKO read the file summary telephonically furnished by Minsk, the explanation from.

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NOSENKO stated that no publicity appeared in the Soviet Press or over the radio regarding OSWALD's arrival or departure from the USSR and no publicity resulted from his attempted suicide. Soviet newspapers and radio have carried numerous statements concerning President KENNEDY's assassination which quoted from Western newspaper stories concerning OSWALD's alleged involvement including the fact that OSWALD had previously visited the USSR.

NOSENKO advised he saw nothing unusual in the fact that OSWALD was permitted to marry a Soviet citizen and later permitted to depart the USSR with her. He noted that Soviet law specifically provides that a Soviet citizen may marry a foreign national in the USSR and depart from the USSR with spouse, provided, of course, the Soviet citizen had not had access to sensitive information.

It was his opinion that President KENNEDY was held in high esteem by the Soviet Government and that President KENNEDY had been evaluated by the Soviet Government as a person interested in maintaining peace. He stated that following the assassination, the Soviet guards were removed from around the American Embassy in Moscow and the Soviet people were permitted without interference to visit the American Embassy to express their condolences. According to NOSENKO, this is the only occasion he can recall where such action had been taken. He said that the orders to remove the guards came from "above." He added that his department provided approximately 20 men who spoke the English language for assignment in the immediate vicinity of the American Embassy in Moscow to insure that no disrespect was shown during this period.

On March 4, 1964, NOSENKO stated that he did not want any publicity in connection with this information but stated that he would be willing to testify to this information before the Presidential Commission, provided such testimony is given in secret and absolutely no publicity is given either to his appearance before the Commission or to the information itself.

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Oswald to stay in Russia and that he was to reside in Minsk, it brought Oswald's file up to date and transferred it to its branch office in Minsk. The cover letter forwarding the file to Minsk, prepared by one of Nosenko's subordinates, briefly summarized Oswald's case and instructed the branch office to take no action concerning him except to "passively" observe his activities to make sure he was not an American intelligence agent temporarily dormant. (Oswald did tell an American friend once that on one or two occasions in Minsk he had heard that the KVD had inquired of neighbors or fellow workers about him.)

4. According to the routine of the KGB, the only coverage of Oswald during his stay in Minsk would have consisted of periodic checks at his place of employment, inquiry of neighbors, other associates, and review of his mail.

5. When the KGB was asked about Oswald's application for a re-entry visa made in Mexico City, it recommended that the application be denied.

6. Shortly after the assassination, Nosenko was called to his office for the purpose of determining whether his Department had any information concerning Oswald. When a search of the office records disclosed that information was available, telephone contact was immediately made with the KGB branch office in Minsk. The branch office dictated a summary of the Oswald file to Moscow over the telephone. This summary included a statement that the Minsk KGB had endeavored to "influence Oswald in the right direction." This statement greatly alarmed the Moscow office, especially in view of their instructions to Minsk that no action was to be taken on Oswald except to "passively observe" his activities. Accordingly, the complete Oswald file at Minsk was ordered to be flown at once via military aircraft to Moscow for examination. It turned out that all this statement referred to was that an uncle of Marina Oswald, a lieutenant colonel in the local militia at Minsk, had approached Oswald and suggested that he not be too critical of the Soviet Union when he returned to the United States.

7. Marina Oswald was once a member of Komsomol but was dropped for nonpayment of dues. (Marina told the Commission she was a member of Komsomol, but she has been inconsistent on why she was dropped.)