

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
 TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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ORIGIN Field	OFFICE New York - New York	FILE NO. CO-2-34,030	
TYPE OF CASE Protective Research	STATUS Investigation Continued	TITLE OR CAPTION Lee Harvey Oswald -	
INVESTIGATION MADE AT Locust Valley, New York	PERIOD COVERED 11/29/63 to 11/30/63	Priscilla JOHNSON's	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY Special Agent George J. Sershen		1959 interview	
DETAILS	SYNOPSIS notes and resulting articles.		
<p>Priscilla Johnson, a journalist, interviewed Lee H. Oswald in 1959 after his defection to the Soviet Union.</p> <p><u>DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION</u></p> <p>This investigation is predicated on telephone call November 29, 1963 from ASAC Sweeney, Boston to ASAC Jukes advising of a request received from SAIC Bouck, Protective Research Section, to interview Miss Priscilla Johnson residing in Cambridge, Massachusetts. ASAC Sweeney stated inquiry disclosed Miss Johnson was residing in New York, telephone OR 6-2620. ASAC Jukes telephoned this number and ascertained Miss Johnson was residing on Feeks Lane in Locust Valley, New York.</p> <p>(Miss) Johnson was interviewed on November 30, 1963 at her home in Locust Valley. She is presently attending the Russian Research Center at Harvard University studying Soviet Literature. In 1959 she was employed as a correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance, with offices in New York City, and was representing that firm in Moscow when she was given the assignment of interviewing Lee H. Oswald who had defected to the Soviet Union. She recalled interviewing Lee H. Oswald at the Hotel Metropole in Moscow advising she was aware Oswald's room had been wired. Accordingly, she exercised care in questioning him, especially since he informed her the Soviet authorities had instructed him not to permit any interviews by the American press and he was violating their "trust".</p>			
DISTRIBUTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief New York Dallas	COPIES Orig & 3 cc's 2 cc's 1 cc.	REPORT MADE BY <i>George Sershen</i> SPECIAL AGENT APPROVED <i>George Sershen</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DATE 345 12/2/63 12/2/63

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Miss Johnson had retained the notes she took at the time of her interview with Oswald and exhibited copies of articles she wrote appearing in the Boston Sunday Globe of November 24, 1963 and the Christian Science Monitor of November 26, 1963 relating to her interview with Oswald. The articles are self-explanatory.

According to Miss Johnson, Oswald in her opinion was a "loner", a person who did not mix socially and kept to himself very much. He was a self-taught Marxist who stated he had read Marx's book, Das Capital, when he was only fifteen years of age. He taught himself to read and write Russian and his decision to defect arose out of his bitterness toward the United States, particularly the plight of the American negro and the exploitation of workers. He was reared in poverty and his mother, a widow, had worked extremely hard to bring up her family. He also expressed resentment at his treatment by the U. S. Marine Corps and accused the United States of military imperialism. He informed Miss Johnson that he had petitioned the Soviet Government for citizenship and stated he had no intention of ever returning to the United States.

Miss Johnson stated she questioned him about the manner in which he traveled to Russia suggesting that he must have been aided by other persons or organizations. He specifically stated he made the trip on his own initiative on monies he had saved while in the Marine Corps and that he positively did not receive assistance from any persons or organizations. She attempted to impress upon him the folly of his actions and in a roundabout manner tried to get him to change his mind about defecting but without success. She concluded that he was a fanatic and that further attempts to dissuade him from seeking Russian citizenship would be futile.

In her description of Oswald, Miss Johnson stated he was touching, likeable and quiet. She felt he was a malcontent who was unsure of himself and probably would be unhappy wherever he was. Although she considered him a fanatic, she did not think he would resort to violence. She does not know whether he had been questioned by the Soviet Secret Police but obviously he had received some instructions from a Soviet authority concerning his activities while in Russia. He stayed very close to the hotel and according to his own statement, he did not attempt to establish friendship with any Russians.

Oswald promised to let her know if he was leaving the hotel. When she inquired at the hotel for him two days later she found he had disappeared and concluded the Soviet authorities had whisked him away having naturally learned of the interview. She has not seen him since.

Miss Johnson stated she was interviewed November 23, 1963 by FBI Agents Curry and Sullivan in Boston and that she gave them a deposition concerning her interview with Oswald. She is leaving New York on December 1st for Boston

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and on the following day, December 2 is flying to Washington where she has an appointment with Mr. Andrew Lowenfeld of the State Department. Mr. Lowenfeld works in the office of a Mr. Shea, a legal counsel for the State Department. While in Washington she will be staying with her brother, Stewart H. Johnson, Jr. at 2906 N. Street, N.W. and expects to remain there until the end of the week.

Verifax copies were made of the newspaper articles previously referred to, and the notes made by Miss Johnson at the time she interviewed Oswald and are being forwarded with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Copies of 2 newspaper articles
Copies of Miss Johnson's notes

GJS/mm

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1
 2. Harvey Oswald - 20
 Fort Worth, Texas born in
 New Orleans
 out to US Embassy Oct 31
 dissolved my Am. citizenship
 as much as they would let me
 the time - however I
 requested that my citizenship
 dissolved. Was not allowed
 swear an oath that we
 renounced - Refused to allow
 me to take oath at that time.
 They said they would not allow
 me to act without confirmation
 my Sov citizenship.
 I relinquished passport
 they would not act until
 citizenship confirmed -
 They have confirmed
 that I would not have
 leave SOB, be forced to,
 see if Sov, Sov refuses
 my request for Sov citizenship.
 They have said they
 are investigating possibility
 my continuing my
 education at Lehigh -

2
 at age 17, enlisted in Marine
 Corps, discharged in Sept -
 14 months in Japan +
 Philippines, Indonesia,
 France - radar operator
 finished high school while
 while in Marine Corps

Hair brown, gray eyes -
 5' 11", 150 lb -
 Oct 18, 1939 birth date
 Marines 2 yrs, 9 months, 3 days
 Overseas 1 yr, 2 months, 24 days
 3. in New Or, childhood in
 Louisiana + Texas -
 NY 2 yrs -
 New Louisiana - enlisted
 in Dallas
 father died before born -
 I believe he was an
 insurance salesman
 Has 1 brother -
 Good Conduct medal from
 Marines
 Mother alive + living in Ft.
 Worth -

3.

had bearing Runs on
 - ago - along with my
 in. Jane Panabina -
 bin to dance myself to
 writing from Bertie -
 time or while speaking
 as + teacher -
 in on Daved while in
 Marine Corps -
 and give no statement
 if fact had + released
 I would never have said
 bump. To any body
 old like to give my side
 story give possible in
 SS. Some thing to think
 about
 was having been assured
 would not have to return
 CBS I assumed it, would
 sell for me to give
 47 side of story -
 there was always
 with my vision would not
 extended -

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1. Lee Harvey Oswald - 20
New Orleans, Texas born in
New Orleans

Went to US Embassy Oct 31
as much as they would let me
at the time - however,
did request that my citizenship
be dissolved. Was not allowed
to swear on oath that he
renounced - Refused to allow
me to take oath at that time.

They said they would not allow
me to do so without confirmation
from my Sav citizenship.

relinquished passport
+ they will not add entry
to citizenship confirmed
They have confirmed
that I would not leave
to leave. I'd be forced to
enter if I sup. for release
my request for Sav citizenship

They have said they
are in a position to
of my citizenship in my
education at least to

3. Started learning Russ a
year ago - along with my
other friends in the
club - I was in the
club for 3 years +
3 months + 3 weeks
+ 3 days + 3 hours
+ 3 minutes + 3 seconds
+ 3 tenths + 3 hundredths
+ 3 thousandths
+ 3 millionths
+ 3 billionths
+ 3 trillionths
+ 3 quadrillionths
+ 3 quintillionths
+ 3 sextillionths
+ 3 septillionths
+ 3 octillionths
+ 3 nonillionths
+ 3 decillionths
+ 3 undecillionths
+ 3 duodecillionths
+ 3 tredecillionths
+ 3 quattuordecillionths
+ 3 quindecillionths
+ 3 sexdecillionths
+ 3 septendecillionths
+ 3 octodecillionths
+ 3 novemdecillionths
+ 3 vigintillionths
+ 3 trigintillionths
+ 3 quadragintillionths
+ 3 quinquagintillionths
+ 3 sexagintillionths
+ 3 septuagintillionths
+ 3 octogintillionths
+ 3 nonagintillionths
+ 3 centillionths

in my mind
I was in the
club for 3 years +
3 months + 3 weeks
+ 3 days + 3 hours
+ 3 minutes + 3 seconds
+ 3 tenths + 3 hundredths
+ 3 thousandths
+ 3 millionths
+ 3 billionths
+ 3 trillionths
+ 3 quadrillionths
+ 3 quintillionths
+ 3 sextillionths
+ 3 septillionths
+ 3 octillionths
+ 3 nonillionths
+ 3 decillionths
+ 3 undecillionths
+ 3 duodecillionths
+ 3 tredecillionths
+ 3 quattuordecillionths
+ 3 quindecillionths
+ 3 sexdecillionths
+ 3 septendecillionths
+ 3 octodecillionths
+ 3 novemdecillionths
+ 3 vigintillionths
+ 3 trigintillionths
+ 3 quadragintillionths
+ 3 quinquagintillionths
+ 3 sexagintillionths
+ 3 septuagintillionths
+ 3 octogintillionths
+ 3 nonagintillionths
+ 3 centillionths

There were says Re in Ts in late Oct - no action - the most

Reem wanted that if I not my opp. or even that of the opp. but I would not do it. almost that I will be for sure -

my son a few years, many take years,

But I am safe in the time because that I can have no longer stay.

Was had me about trouble, could get into a) at first thing dried to

discourage me - I asked to be allowed to take out - they made excuse so as to refuse

out - Said I would come back, Pelly knew up! as usual self into fresh.

at least older part - I at times I - for a few years, that "my son" in the

land to it then served

cliplanah's claim hole -

5. Bitter at refusal - I was there, Sat Oct 31, refused on grounds of consul official needed time to set papers together -

to (I know want to make Re with them

4 them - I can't be too hard on them, but they are acting in an illegal way, but he is supposed to deny that primarily through

Now - I wrote letter of protest to US Ambassador - received his letter back - (protest may Sheder had carried out his duties)

It is a principle of the law that the right of expatriation is a natural & inherent right of any person & that the manner prescribed by law for renunciation of one's citizenship is the exercise of a right of a diplomatic or consular officer of the U.S. in the country

"I've seen you appear in the
 that you may appear in the
 end of any fine during
 normal business hours & require
 that the end prepare the
 necessary documents for
 renunciation of citizenship."

"Just treating it like legal
 normally don't encourage
 you & don't discourage
 you. They do of course
 know you, that if you're
 easy to be accepted as a
 citizen of the U.S. - BT - eyes
 would not consider returning
 to U.S. -"
 "I need to drop on 1st floor
 paying standard room to
 food rate. - I want to make
 if clear thing are not
 sponsoring me -
 of medicine has possid

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Did it desert - Lucie
 1) I'll read
 2) you would get a
 3) you would be in
 prepared - possible be used
 I'm not a resident of OH, could
 laugh, that's possibly
 desertion
 if nobody

Would you mind about it
 ever possibly never know
 in my opinion about reading
 in the papers - and exactly
 my first to find - Not to
 2 yrs to do it - Not to
 how it will be reflecting
 when it was written
 person at 1st floor
 Had in the office of Paul
 sister - a

Left from New Orleans
 Sept 19 (??) Fri by ship -
 3 days to La Havre -
 booked Plis 24 to Helsinki
 got route - \$30
 after 34 days from
 Heising: 7 Moscow -
 10 days on vouchers -
 for the past 2 yrs I have
 been waiting to do this
 and this - raised
 voice, 2 yrs I was
 waiting to leave leaving
 Camp, make financial
 arrangements -
 I have had practical
 experience in world and
 how our idealism completely
 have had slaves to
 make. Am militarist
 in relation to action.
 Because a Marxist
 at 15, 20 yrs I had
 discovered socialism in
 at least 15 yrs of
 reading. See Lidj, observation

highness of majority groups:
 Can't imagine, I feel
 workers in NY - the
 fact that they are
 exploited -
 I'd read about it in
 Socialism lit, I saw that
 the doctrine was quite correct.
 Saw I was either a worker
 exploited for cap: prof. or
 an exploited, or since there
 are many in this category
 I'd be in of the unemployed
 Decision in national, not
 sparked by any lit with
 wife since has no wife -
 At 15, I was looking for
 some thing that would give
 me a way to my
 environment. ...
 why no man has been
 a worker all his life
 has produced profit
 for capitalist - a good
 ex. of what happens to
 workers in US + decisions

To say a bit of the book -
 in the old days, the
 had not a lot of work
 and of course in US
 is a claim to be
 in the book and possible
 It's a bit of a
 and up with what
 system + under what
 of the system. It's
 duty of engineers to work -
 books by league -
 changed that suit -
 with the suit, date file
 for cashmere sweater
 believe that sweater
 later. Can't be replaced
 Capitalism - Defensive
 Can't be aggressive
 ideal. Which is plants itself
 in every system + in US
 laws - caused fire in
 US, so I shall restate

"I see if we, as engineers
 a bit - engineers
 the standard water -
 One kind of water -
 One kind of water -
 New series of books to be
 returned by a young
 in the book in a young
 people - a young
 of the people - a young
 No capital work. A
 Can't be only the
 reading it, it's observing -
 did I conclude it was
 been for time, personally
 brought up, liberally
 father - my, to take
 Negroes -
 The Socialist lit. -
 opened my eyes to econ -
 reasons for setting Neg.
 Japan + Phil.
 An article on ally

13. Difficult they don't have
 a 2. many hot water plants
 + means first they will in
 20 yrs, then an econ-
 system which is leaving
 US far behind
 (very material stuff -
 on top of a world influence
 me to enforce -
 not to succeed
 It's the social system,
 that affects me
 Of course, since SU will
 undoubtedly out pass US -
 have got out. In fact, sales
 have seen tourists attacking
 people's homes - in 1968
 city of Moscow - in Prague
 only because every city
 parcel by gov't. is all toward
 people here and so well up
 except for the future
 of large in future of
 this country
 Still making parity
 not to be seen here

12. hated for will imperialism
 in Japan you'd expect
 it - but if you're even
 from Japan but at
 the liberal you'd know
 what means -
 by imperialism with
Can enrich them,
 the rich of Am
 Am look upon all
 foreign people as smothering
 to be exploited for profit
 Only Filipinos who are well
 off are those who cooperate
 with us
 What part of Indonesia
 in Java in March 1953 -
Comm - inspired social
 turn over - inspired of poor
 with ammunition - enough
 1958 - see crisis
 we told me might have to go
 in top part
we went into thousands
to see we were poor +
didn't want to be
under an any Comm by

14. The Russ / meet you -
 politics - understanding -
 Ask me why I am very
 curious - Understand
 when I speak of ideal's -
 ideal - reason that I've
 thought me here while an
 Am would + understand
 (I've learned) in material
 situation of US where
 Russian + head me no
 celebrity -

Appears to be. you're
 repeated by as "my
 you're"
 I've already asked
 them to prepare papers
 I'm sure if I did on the
 East they'd just give me
 the same rubbish
 Hence = Sov. situation
 labor - saving device
 dissolve citizenship
 Pres high + labor-saving

15. Sov. people, Lib. US. see
 wage - B. A. the profit
 thing probably is use
 be used fit all the parts
 Things have been sight
 not based on credit -
 speculation -

has a very primitive under
 ding of economies, that's
 at Hart's Das Kapital

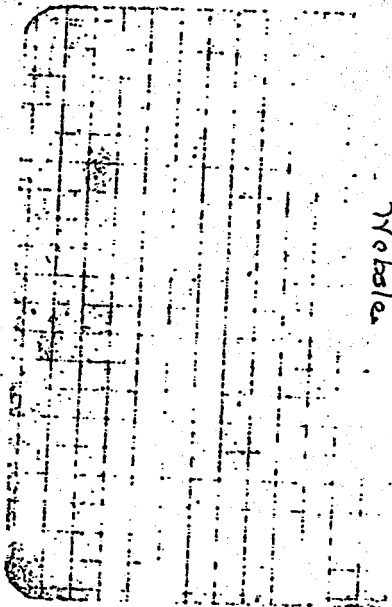
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13. I want to discuss it to do it, but would like obligation to see us give things to

To send we needed more things get people communication with. What is up to? Law says we are under oblig. To permit U.S. to renounce rights. Law says must be given to us of right mind & not asleep easily.

Nicholas Pakull:

Nobata



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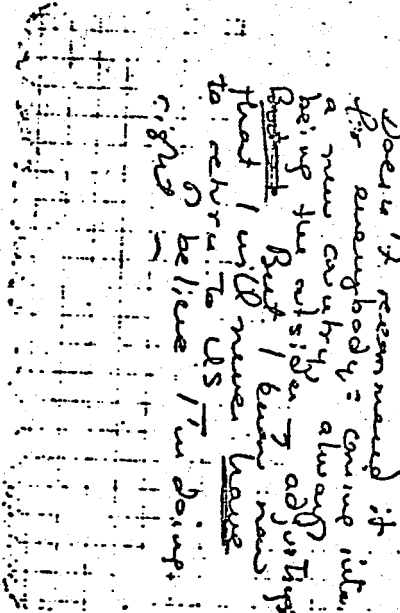
14. My reason's are very strong - food & ma

gave permission to US Emb. - along with we had a written statement

Light Sanku - account

Bitte

Doesn't recommend it for everybody - coming into a new country always. But I know now that I will never leave to return to US I'm doing right



Interview With Suspect Oswald in Moscow in 1959

The Stuff of Which

The author was Moscow Correspondent for *NANA* in 1959. A few years before, in 1953, she had been research assistant on Viet Nam for John F. Kennedy, then a senator. She is perhaps the only person to have been good friends with both the late President and his suspected assassin. She is today a freelance writer on Soviet affairs.

By FRISCILLA JOHNSON

COPYRIGHT, 1960, DAVID G. GLAZ, North American Newspaper Alliance; CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—For two years now I have been waiting to do this one thing. To dissolve my American citizenship and become a citizen of the Soviet Union.

The time was November 1959. The place was my room on the third floor of Moscow's Hotel Metropol. The speaker was Lee Harvey Oswald, prime suspect in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

With his suit of charcoal gray flannel, dark tie and tan cashmere sweater, Lee looked, and sounded like Joe College with a slight southern drawl. But his life hadn't been that of a typical college boy.

His father, an insurance salesman, died before he was just one floor below mine at birth. Raised in Texas and the Metropolis, Louisiana, the boy spent two friends in Russia and he didn't early teens. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines. "I did it," he said, "because dad's store one block from ours. We were poor and I didn't want hotel. He'd managed to buy a later. He spent 14 months as told me proudly. a licensed radar operator in the Far East.

In September, 1959, his room all evening and into the three-year hitch nearly done, the early hours of morning, the Marines gave Lee a discharge. Just one plans to defect to Russia, month later, after an exhaustive trip by land, sea and air, that this boy was to feel he arrived in Moscow to per- of which families are made, tion the Supreme Soviet.

highest legislative body in the. Even though Russian officials, USSR, for Soviet citizenship, warned him Soviet citizenship is not easy to obtain, Lee was. Later, as a Marine private, saw Fatatic Oswald had been already referring to the Soviet in Japan and the Philippines.

Government as "my govern- ment." "But," said Lee, "Even if I am not accepted, on no account will I go back to the United States. I shall remain here, if necessary, as a resident alien."

All Soviet officials would promise at the time was that, Lee could stay on in Russia, whether or not he became a citizen. Meanwhile, they were investigating the possibility of sending him to a Soviet higher technical institute.

At an age when angry young rebels all over the world find release in aping the beatniks, what brought this serious, soft-spoken southern boy to Moscow with no other ambition but to spend the rest of his life as a Soviet citizen? Evidently, it was a combination of poverty, the plight of the U. S. Negro, and the U. S. Marines.

"My mother," said Lee, "has been a worker all her life. She's a good example," he added, "of what happens to workers in the United States." He declined to elaborate.

"At the age of 15," he added, "after watching the way workers are treated in New York, and Negroes in the South, I was looking for a key to my environment. Then I discovered Socialist literature." Lee was struck in particular by Mary's "Das Kapital."

Lee was bitter at U.S. Congress. Richard Snyder, who he considered, stifled him when he either a worker exploited for capitalist profit, or an ex-plotter. Or, since there are many in this category, I'd be one of the unemployed." Lee became a Marxist. Lee would go back there. He would handle the legal details when, and if, he became a cit-

had a chance to watch American militarist imperialism in action."

Year's Planning

Fully a year before, Lee began getting ready to go to Russia. Using a Berlitz grammar, he taught himself to read and write Russian. Never, Lee, a nice-looking young man, he taught himself to read with gray eyes and brown hair, did he consider deserting the Marine Corps.

Did it occur to Lee that Soviet officials might be embarrassed by his efforts to become a citizen of their country at a moment when Russia was cultivating good relations with the United States? he said, "I don't encourage and don't discourage me." They warned, however, that neither Lee's name whether his citizenship application was to be accepted.

They said it depended on the over-all political atmosphere at the moment. Meanwhile, they offered Lee the security of a prolonged stay in the USSR.

As for officials at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, they were torn between their desire to give Lee time to think it over, and their legal obligation to hear his oath renouncing American citizenship. If he insisted.

Fanatics Are Made'

son of the Soviet Union, shortcomings in Moscow, Lee answered when I knocked he would never go at his door and why, a few hours later, he came to see me in my room, I never learned.

I asked Lee if the ordinary don't recommend it to every Russian he met expressed surprise at his desire to defect, new country, always being the "Well," he said, "they're very curious and they ask me why, just But to me, my reasons are along and good. I believe speak of the idealistic reasons; that was why Lee wouldn't just brought me here. And answer the phone when his mother was calling from Rybin to come see me again. The about conditions of workers in North, trying to plead with Russians, Oswald told me, had the United States."

Never Go Back!

Regardless of any material can correspondents, just why, before closing the door, that know,

As our conversation drew to a close, we ate nothing, and had been sipping only tea. I had a terrible feeling of fulfillment. Illusion, I was sure, awaited him.

Two seconds later, the won the elevator and each row Oswald. I know, I'd who