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In 1974 a transcript of an executive session of the Warren Commission was released after a prolonged legal battle by a private researcher.³⁵ Classified as Top Secret until its release, it contains a reference by Chief Counsel J. Lee Rankin to the Commission's efforts, "to find out what he [Oswald] studied at the Monterey School of the Army in the way of languages."³⁶ There is no known official record of Oswald having studied there. The Monterey School (the Defense Language Institute), located in California, was operational in 1959. It was, and still is, the linguistic West Point for U.S. military and intelligence personnel who need to learn a language thoroughly and quickly. If Oswald studied there, it would explain his phenomenal progress.

The Monterey School is not a self-improvement institution offering courses to anyone who is interested. In 1959 it was a school for serious training relating to government work, not to the academic whims of military or intelligence personnel. Only those with a certain level of aptitude were admitted, and training was in a language selected for the student by the government, according to needs or assignments.³⁷ If Oswald went there, it would also explain why he was not seen as a threat to

statistics to indicate that attaining Russian fluency requires more than twice as many hours as did Spanish or French—1,100 hours or more, including instruction. Weeks opined that the kind of progress described in Oswald's case would be exceedingly difficult if not impossible to attain in such a short time by using only the radio and self-study props. Such progress would require instructors, Weeks asserted, or, at a minimum, persons proficient in the language who would be willing to converse extensively with the student. Oswald supposedly had no access to either formal or informal tutors.

In 1974 a transcript of an executive session of the Warren Commission was released after a prolonged legal battle by researcher-author Harold Weisberg.³⁵ Classified as "Top Secret" until its release, it contains a reference by Chief Counsel J. Lee Rankin to the Commission's efforts "to find out what he [Oswald] studied at the Monterey School of the Army in the way of languages."³⁶ There is no known official record of Oswald having studied there. The Monterey School (the Defense Language Institute), located in California, was operational in 1959. It was and still is the linguistic West Point for U.S. military and intelligence personnel who need to learn a language thoroughly and quickly. If Oswald studied there, it would explain his phenomenal progress.

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In September 1959 Oswald left the Marine Corps—three months ahead of his scheduled discharge.³⁸ In the first of what was to be a long series of quick and favorable treatment by various government agencies, he was given a dependency discharge because of an injury to his mother.³⁹ The speed of his release surprised his Marine peers.⁴⁰ But the Marine Corps was duped, or so it appears; the discharge was obtained on false grounds. Oswald's mother's injury consisted of a jar falling on her toe while at work. She stayed home for a week, but when she returned she did not mention the injury at all, much less describe it as a continuing problem. This incident took place the year before Oswald's dependency discharge.⁴¹

Perhaps Oswald was in a hurry to get out of the Marines because he had other things to do. In October 1959—one month after his early

discharge—he was on his way to Moscow to defect. As with most of his defection and his return, his journey to Russia is enigmatically obscure. First, there is the problem of financing. The trip cost at least \$1,300.

The Warren Commission decided that Oswald, being frugal, had money out of his Marine Corps pay.⁴² Before his departure for Moscow, his bank account contained only \$203. He could have squandered \$1,300 in cash and carried it around with him to pay for his trip, but by no means impossible; alternatively, his trip could have been subsidized by someone. Friends and relatives claim not to have given him any money during this period, but perhaps someone else did. Second, there is the problem of Oswald's itinerary. He was in England on October 9 and left October 10, according to his passport stamped at the London airport.⁴³ His next destination was Heerlen, a small town in the Netherlands, en route to Moscow. He arrived there on October 11. But there is no available commercial flight that would have gotten him there that day. Either his nest egg of cash was bigger than anyone imagined, or he hired a private air transport—or he was flown to Helsinki by a commercial aircraft, private or military.

After arriving in Moscow in October 1959, he told Soviet officials his desire for Soviet citizenship. The officials were unimpressed, probably more than a bit suspicious. They rejected his request for citizenship and ordered him to leave Moscow within two hours. He was allegedly responsive to this rejection was to slit his left wrist. He was taken to a hospital by a Soviet Intourist guide who found him bleeding in a hotel room. He was then confined to a psychiatric hospital. Soviet officials decided his fate. Certainly they must have debated whether Oswald was an authentic defector or a spy. This was an era in which the United States and the Soviet Union were playing extensive games with ostensible defectors.⁴⁶

After waiting several days for the Soviets to make up their mind whether to take action, he went to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. He denounced the United States, praised the Soviet Union, and stated that he wanted to renounce his U.S. citizenship.⁴⁷ He also made a very dramatic announcement: he stated that he had offered to sell the Soviets radar secrets that he had learned in the Marines. He announced in a somewhat incoherently that he "might know something of special interest," and he referred to the U-2.⁴⁸

This action seems counterproductive on Oswald's part. To make threats to the U.S. Embassy might cause officials to panic, to take extraordinary means to stop the young Marine from spilling secrets to the U.S. Embassy did not previously know of Oswald's

