

now she looks from in the past when - which looks like on her side, not
like now why Darwin says why that means "physically
next to him - but Darwin who 6 sources is totally, Tharrows

116...Oswald's Game

eyes - must have up for her

Marina wanted, would have meant scrapping his identity and constructing a new one—or becoming a hypocrite in his own eyes, someone who sat around and talked but did nothing.

The attack on Walker resembled his defection in another respect: it was carefully planned. Part of the excitement must have been in the detailed anticipation. The note he left Marina indicates that he had considered every eventuality—that he might be killed or arrested, or that he might escape, possibly to another country. Albert Newman believes that had Oswald assassinated Walker he intended to go to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, tell the officials there what he had done—proving it with his notebook and photographs—and ask for asylum in Cuba, an "extradition-free" country. McMillan suggests that in the event of an arrest he might have used his trial as a forum to denounce American fascism, before asking for asylum in Russia. At any rate, as Marina later said of the backyard photographs, "He must have had something in his mind—some grandiose plans."

On April 21 Oswald staged another dramatic scene. After reading the morning newspaper he got dressed and put his Smith & Wesson pistol into his belt. He informed Marina that former Vice-President Richard Nixon was coming to town and that he wanted "to go and have a look." Marina has testified that she replied, "I know how you look"—and physically restrained him from leaving the apartment. (In fact, Nixon was *not* coming to Dallas, but that day's *Morning News* reported a speech he had made in Washington. The banner headline read, "Nixon Calls for Decision to Force Reds Out of Cuba/Open U.S. Support of Rebels Urged.")

When skeptical Commission members questioned her about this incident, Marina admitted that she could not have kept her husband from leaving their apartment if he had really wanted to go. She said that at first he was angry and told her, "You are always getting in my way," but then rather quickly gave in. "It might have been," she continued, "that he was just trying to test me." (Thinking back on it, Marina saw the incident as a "kind of nasty joke," an example of a sadistic streak he had. She also told the Commission that he would make her write letters to the Russian Embassy asking to be allowed to return to the Soviet Union: "He liked to tease me and torment me in this way . . . especially if I interfered in any of his political affairs, in any of his political discussions.")

If isn't clear why Oswald now decided to move to New Orleans, Marina has said it was her suggestion that he go to his hometown to find work, because she wanted to get him away from the temptation

Taking Action... 117

of trying to kill Walker again. But it also appears that Oswald had, as usual, some political goal in mind. When Ruth Paine visited the Oswalds on April 24, she found them waiting with their bags packed ready to be driven to the bus station. Rather than see the pregnant Marina make the long bus trip with a small child, she offered to let them stay with her while Lee went ahead to look for a job. This was evidently exactly what Oswald had intended all along. She drove him to the terminal to check his baggage, and the next day Oswald took a bus to New Orleans.