

Dear Bud,

9/22/86

Jim mentioned and then sent me a copy of Fred Cook's letter to you of 7/22/86 in which he wonders if flagging Oswald at State means what it did when some of the Nazis our government liked were flagged for special, favorable treatment. While I have from the very first, and I mean the first few days, believed that there were indications of an Oswald-government relationship of some kind, I don't believe that the flagging indicates this. After all these years my recollection may not be dependable and while for some political reasons such flagging may have been indicated, like to deny passports to "reds," I believe that in Oswald's case it began because he owed State the money it had advanced to repatriate him. Possibly Sylvia Meagher's recollection may be better.

There are and I have more substantial indications of such a relationship, if Cook is ever down this way. I have proof that as a Marine Oswald had the highest security clearances not on his service record, on which his actual assignments also are not entered, and going along with this is what caused, or perhaps I should be more cautious and say seems to have caused, the abrupt change in the CIA's treatment of Nosenko from princely to ~~incredibly~~ abusive. The KGB suspected that Oswald was a sleeper agent. And he was anti-Soviet when he was in the USSR. This also is in the reporting of what Nosenko said. His writing, as I reported in my first book, was anti-Soviet and anti-US Communist.

All of Oswald's actual overseas assignments had a relationship with the CIA. It was not only Atsugi.

Loftus refers to ^{board}car flags being stapled to the paperwork. I do not now know why but I think that Oswald's card was marked with a clip-on flag, the standard kind available at the usual stores.

The idea was that when he paid up that flag could be removed.

If State then was not flagging those Frances Knight considered "red" I'd be astounded. I knew her before she got the hept to get that kind of job, and I could hardly believe how overtly she sought to undermine new dealers above her as red.

Best,

Harold

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July 22, 1986

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
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Dear Bud:

I've come across an item that may be of some interest in connection with Oswald and the JFK assassination.

As I remember it, when Oswald applied for a new visa, he got approval in jig time though there was a red flag warning on his record. This, as I remember it at least, was supposed to indicate that he was a suspicious character requiring investigation, but---supposedly through some bureaucratic error--he received swift approval.

I have now been reading John Loftus' "The Belarus Secret." I don't know whether you've come across it (a helluva good book), and on page 122 he describes how the Byelorussian Nazis who had been imported into this country by the CIA got special treatment for their travels. "Persons whose files were red-flagged received special treatment," Loftus writes. "Minor discrepancies in their applications were overlooked; background investigations were cut short; paperwork was expedited..."

This was under a system set up by Frank Wisner, who was in charge of covert actions for CIA.

Obviously, the reason I'm writing is that this struck me as the very opposite of what we were given to believe in the Oswald case. It might indicate that, instead of a watch being placed on Oswald, the supposed "warning" flags on his file were, on the contrary, indications that he should be given special treatment. If so, the system would seem to indicate he had a special relationship with CIA.

My best to you and Patty,

Jack

The Attorney General designated the institutions that qualified, most of which were subsequently identified as CIA front organizations. An applicant for citizenship was now able to leave the country without breaking his five-year waiting period. Individuals accorded special preference for immigration visas, reentry permits, and citizenship applications had small red cardboard flags stapled to their immigration paperwork. The red flag read simply "American Committee for Liberation from Bolshevism" and gave a New York City address.

Persons whose files were red-flagged received special treatment. Minor discrepancies in their applications were overlooked; background investigations were cut short; paperwork was expedited. Most of the Byelorussian employees at Radio Liberty had red flags in their immigration files.¹⁹ The immigration officials knew that they were performing some kind of anticommunist propaganda or intelligence work and simply assumed that the CIA had already made a thorough background check. That is how Stanislaw Stankievich entered the United States and eventually became an American citizen, in spite of the fact that five previous visa applications had been rejected.* He was naturalized on March 8, 1969, by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.²⁰

A check of Stankievich's file at Fort Meade, Maryland, reveals that both the Army and the State Department had knowledge of his history of collaboration with the Nazis prior to his entry into this country. These documents state:

Subject attempted to apply for immigration to the United States in 1948 and 1949. It was found in 1948 that subject had made false statements on practically all major points in his personal data form in order to hide his past history. Subject's name appears on the list of persons rejected for immigration to United States under Section 13

*Stankievich gained his citizenship although he spent very little time in the United States. He was admitted in 1959 on a visa obtained by AMCOMLIB. On the day of his arrival, Wisner's staff sent a letter to the Immigration and Naturalization Service requesting that he be issued a reentry permit so he could leave the country for Germany. Over the next ten years Stankievich traveled back and forth between the United States and Germany. He finally took up residence in New York City before being naturalized. Each of his reentry permits bears a red tab with the name and address of AMCOMLIB.