

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-106958)

11/29/63

SAC, BOSTON (105-10333) (RM)

UNSUB; Approximately 30-Year Old
Female American Tourist of Interest to KGB
for Possible Recruitment

IS - R

(OO: WFO)

Re WFO letters to Director, 10/25/63, 11/1, 13 and 18/63.

Reference is also made to the report of SA DARREL B. CUNNIE dated November 24, 1963 at Boston, Massachusetts and airtel of the same date to the Director in the case entitled "Assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, November 22, 1963, Dallas, Texas, Assaulting a Federal Officer" copies of which were furnished the WFO and New York Office.

On November 6, 1963, [Miss DOROTHY BERNAL] Personnel Office, Little Hall, Harvard University, advised that her records failed to reflect the name of [PRISCILLA JOHNSON] as an employee of Harvard University.

On November 6, 1963, [Miss LUCY ROBINSON] Corporation Office, Harvard University, advised that records failed to reflect that [PRISCILLA JOHNSON] was in any way officially connected with Harvard University either as a student or faculty member.

On November 14, 1963, by means of a pretext telephone call to the Brattle Inn, 13 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts [redacted] it was ascertained by SA CUNNIE that [PRISCILLA JOHNSON] was then residing at Brattle Inn and "doing some work at Harvard."

On November 19, 1963, [redacted]

[redacted] an established source, stated that

- 3 - Bureau (105-106958) (RM)
- 2 - WFO (105-47870) (RM)
- 2 - New York (RM)
 - (1- 105-59587)
 - (1- 105-15667) (Priscilla Johnson)
- 1 - Boston (105-10333)

62-109060 UNREC

NOT RECORDED
150 DEC 12 1963

DBC/svc

(7)

74 DEC 12 1963

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-106958-54

Section 16

PRISCILLA JOHNSON has been provided office space at the Russian Research Center, 16 Dunster Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, but has no official connection with the Center. [redacted] described her as a well-known newspaper woman and author who spent three years in Russia as a writer. He stated her articles have appeared in newspapers and magazines and that she had also worked for the U.S. Information Agency. He said that the Russian Research Center library and research facilities had been made available to her in connection with literary work she has in mind. [redacted] said he had no idea how long she would remain at the center and said he could provide no other background or biographical data on her.

With reference to the case entitled "Assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, November 22, 1963, Dallas, Texas, Assaulting a Federal Officer" Miss PRISCILLA JOHNSON was interviewed at the Brattle Inn, Cambridge, Massachusetts from 11:30 pm November 23, 1963 to 1:30 am November 24, 1963 by SA's DARREL B. CURRIE and JAMES T. SULLIVAN of the Boston Office.

The purpose of the interview of PRISCILLA JOHNSON was to obtain information regarding LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Incidental thereto and without indicating possible Bureau interest in her as a suspect in the captioned case, she was advised that inasmuch as she is a potential witness, that biographical and background data on her would be desirable. Accordingly she willingly furnished the following information:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Name | PRISCILLA MARY POST JOHNSON |
| Date of birth | July 19, 1928 |
| Place of birth | Glen Cove, Long Island, New York |
| Father | STUART HOLMES JOHNSON, a retired cotton textile broker |
| Mother | EUNICE CLAPP JOHNSON, housewife |
| Brothers | STUART HOLMES JOHNSON, JR. Employed by Representative EMMANUEL CELLER FRANK COIT JOHNSON, Employed by the Institute for Space Studies New York City |

BS 105-10333

Sister

KUNICE COIT JOHNSON CAMPBELL

Education

Bryn Mawr College, AB degree, 1950
Radcliffe College Graduate School-
1950-53, MA degree in Russian area
studies

Employment

1953, Office of Senator JOHN F.
KENNEDY, Washington, D.C., as a
research worker on Viet Nam. 1953,
translator and editor "Current
Digest of Soviet Press" - 1955, a
researcher for Collier's magazine.
Summer 1955 to March, 1956 - free
lance writer in Europe and Soviet
Union. 1956-57, "Current Digest
of Soviet Press" - 1958-60, Moscow,
USSR - translator for "Reuters" and
correspondent for "North American
Newspaper Alliance". She is
currently a journalist and free
lance writer.

Miss JOHNSON stated that she had been expelled from Moscow in July, 1960 and she attributed this expulsion to the U-2 incident. She said she believed "my visa was just picked up by accident". She went on to state that visa had been granted her on a three months basis. In her opinion, the extension of her visa was contingent on the fact that her writings did not displease the Russians. She stated that Vice President NIXON at one time intervened in her behalf to obtain an extension of her visa. At another time, U.S. Ambassador LLEWELLYN THOMPSON spoke to NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV about an extension of her visa.

At this point she interpolated that during the summer of 1962, she had re-visited the USSR representing "The Reporter" magazine.

She stated that during her stay in Russia from 1958 to 1960 she was, on several occasions, taken to lunch by Russians "who tried to ply me with drink". She stated that

she drinks very little and did not accept these offers. During these meetings, she was asked questions regarding activities of working members of the U.S. press Corps in Moscow. The questions centered on the overall interests of these correspondents, in other words, they wanted the "dirt on different correspondents."

Miss JOHNSON stated she surmised that if she provided the answers to the above questions, the next step would probably have been to have asked her "what did Ambassador THOMPSON say yesterday in the briefing"? She said probably the third step developing from the first two questions would have been a request for information "on the people in the Embassy". She said that she never provided information to her questioners, whom she did not identify by name.

Miss JOHNSON commented that sexual advances had been made to her but she had never let these advances get started. She added that she was constantly fearful that she might be drugged or be the victim of compromising photographs. However, no incident of the kind occurred.

She made the observation that all U.S. correspondents were believed to have been approached in a similar manner and subjected to similar pressures. She stated she considered herself vulnerable because her visas were of only three months duration and also because her articles became more and more critical.

With regard to her 1962 visit to Russia she advised that 13 notebooks were seized by the Russians together with two finished manuscripts on Russia as well as four sets of files containing Soviet news clippings and background data on numerous stories appearing in the Russian press.

She stated further that on one occasion she made efforts to obtain permission to take a boat trip on the Volga River in order to write a story of the people on the trip. She said her field was "atmospheric", that she liked to write of moods and attitudes of people. She was given a variety of reasons why permission could not be granted her to make this trip. She said she did not realize until later that she had unwittingly asked permission to enter an area which she learned was suffering from acute food shortages and was having political trouble.

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She did not receive permission to go there.

Miss JOHNSON was very cooperative during the interview and readily assented to an additional interview if necessary. She was advised that because of her considerable reservoir of information concerning individuals in Russia and methods used by the Russians, that such an interview might be desirable in the future.

Miss JOHNSON stated that none of her brothers had ever been a "pilot".

No further interview of Miss JOHNSON is contemplated by Boston at this time.