

JLR:HPV:al
3/6/64

MAR 6 1964

Mr. Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Helms:

The Commission has recently received a report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation covering an interview that took place between representatives of the Bureau and the recent Soviet defector, Yuri Ivanovich Sosenko.

It appears to us that Sosenko's defection, whether or not it is authentic, is of very great interest to the Commission. I would like to set up a conference early in the week of March 9 between members of the Commission staff and members of the CIA to discuss this matter further and to explore generally the work your Agency has in progress of interest to this Commission.

Will you please contact me at your earliest convenience to set a time for this conference.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

cc: Mr. Rankin
Mr. Willens -- Chrono.

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per 058375

date 21 MAY 1976

*Kenney, John F. 4/14/64
Nosenko, Yuri I.*

MEMORANDUM

March 9, 1964

TO: Jenner-Liebeler
Eall-Belin

FROM: W. David Slawson

SUBJECT: Testimony of Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko, recent Soviet Defector

The testimony of Nosenko is contained in documents carrying Commission Nos. 434 and 451, insofar as we have received information to date. Of special interest to your sections are the following statements by Nosenko in regard to Oswald's marksmanship:

"Following President Kennedy's assassination Nosenko ascertained from Oswald's file that he had had access to a gun which he used to hunt game with fellow employees in the U.S.S.R. He could not describe the gun used by Oswald but did remember that it was used to shoot rabbits. Nosenko stated that Western newspaper reports describe Oswald as an expert shot; however, Oswald's file contained a statement from fellow hunters that Oswald was an extremely poor shot and that it was necessary for persons who accompanied him on hunts to provide him with game."

Nosenko purports to have been a high official in the counter-intelligence division of the KGB, the Russian Secret Police. He also purports to have been the person who supervised the examination and treatment of Lee Harvey Oswald for the KGB, both when Oswald first entered Russia in 1959 and after the assassination of President Kennedy, when Oswald's file was reexamined by the KGB to determine whether he had ever been used as an agent by that organization. Nosenko states that the KGB at no time used Oswald as an agent.

Mailroom

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date 21 MAY 1976

DATE: 13 Mar 64
MEMORANDUM

Nosenko, Yuri
March 12, 1964

Int
TO: Samuel A. Stern
FROM: William T. Coleman, Jr.
W. David Slawson

SUBJECT: Checking Nosenko's Reliability

Yuri Nosenko, the recent Soviet defector, has testified among other things that he was ordered approximately four hours after the assassination of President Kennedy to check out everything his files contained on Lee Oswald. Nosenko was in charge of the staff in the KGB which handled American defectors in Moscow and therefore the fact he was alerted at this time means that the Russians probably knew that Lee Oswald came within the category that would have been handled by Nosenko.

As a check on Nosenko's reliability we would like to know whether the Russian officials could reasonably have known within four hours after the assassination that Lee Harvey Oswald had been a defector to Russia. We think that it is safe to assume that the Russians could know as soon as the news was on American radio or perhaps even on T.V. because they were probably monitoring our broadcasts at this time.

cc: Mr. Rankin Chron File
Mail Room
Mr. Slawson

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