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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

PPT

FROM : Amembassy MOSCOW
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF : Department's OM of August 18, 1961

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NO.

OCT 13 1961

October 12, 1961

DATE

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SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS - Lee Harvey Oswald

The Embassy reports herein on correspondence received from Lee Harvey OSWALD since its last communication to the Department on this subject (Despatch 29, July 11, 1961). Attached as enclosure No. 1 are copies of four letters received from Oswald dated July 15, August (without date), August 8, and October 4 respectively. (The spelling is Mr. Oswald's.)

It will be noted that Oswald is having difficulty in obtaining exit visas for himself and his Soviet wife, and that they are subject to increasing harassment in Minsk. In replying to Oswald's latest letter, the Embassy pointed out that it has no way of influencing Soviet action on exit visas. It informed him that the question of his passport renewal could be discussed with him personally at the Embassy. In answer to Oswald's question, the Embassy notified him that the petition to classify his wife's status had not yet been approved.

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Boris H. Klosson

Boris H. Klosson
Counselor for Political Affairs

Enclosure: *att*
As stated

JENorbury: mmm:hp

REPORTER

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FORM 6-61 F5-439 GPO 912596

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO:	NAME OF OFFICER	DATE OF ACTION	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R
OFFICE SYMBOL	ACTION TAKEN		

~~SECRET~~

circu May 1960
Rpt 11/26/59

FRANK, Lee Harvey

Date of Birth: 18 October 1924. New Orleans, Louisiana

Date of Defection: October 1959

Education: High school. Always a studious type, read books that were considered "deep".

Military Services

Joined the Marines at 17. Says he did this because he didn't want to be a burden on his mother. Became a PFC, radar operator; 14 months service Japan and the Philippines. Honorable discharge on 3 September, 1959 (dependency discharge).

Background:

Father, an insurance salesman, died before Lee was born. Has a brother who is a salesman at Acme Brick Company, Fort Worth, Texas, and a half brother John Vincent Pic age 28, a US Air Force Staff Sergeant stationed in Japan. Mother is currently employed as a supply mother at the Methodist Orphan Home, Waco, Texas. (DBF 49478, 25 May 1960)

see Telegram 11/9/59

According to newspaper articles, reasons for his defection were a combination of family poverty, what he considers the plight of US negroes, and the US Marines or American Imperialism abroad. At 15 or so he read "Das Kapital" and agreed with its theories. A year before his discharge, he began to prepare for life in the Soviet Union by using a Berlitz grammar to teach himself how to read and write Russian. News, however, did he considered deserting the Marine Corps.

After discharge from the Marines, Lee visited his mother in Fort Worth for about 3 days, then left for New Orleans where he planned to resume employment with an export-import company for which he had worked prior to enlisting in the Marines. Shortly after he arrived in New Orleans, he sent his mother a note saying that he had booked passage to Europe, that he was doing something he felt he must do. His arrival in Moscow came as a shock to the family. Travel money probably came from that saved while in the Marines. He had never expressed any sympathy for the Soviet Union or Communism. He had been interested in Cuba and South America and his family would have expected him to go there, if anywhere. Mail sent to him since his defection has been addressed to the Hotel Metropole, Moscow. He acknowledged receipt of his mail in 1959, but letters sent in 1960 have been returned to the senders. (DBF 49478)

In November 1959 the Soviets were investigating the possibility of sending Lee to a Soviet higher technical institute. (Morning Evening Star) In 1960 Mrs. Oswald received a letter from the Albert Schweitzer College

CLASSIFICATION CANCELED

By authority of: C. J. [Signature]
12/22/72

Name and title of person making the classification: [Signature]

Date: 11/11/73

see [Signature] PB

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in Switzerland, and which was addressed to Lee, which said in effect that this college was expecting Lee Oswald on 20 April 1963. After receipt of the letter, Mrs. Oswald planned to write to the college to learn if her son was in actual attendance there. (OSF 49473)

The Soviets neither encouraged nor discouraged Oswald's desire to become a Soviet citizen. The American Embassy wanted him to think it over before hearing his oath renouncing American citizenship. As a result, Oswald is bitter towards the consul there. He has stated that regardless of any material shortcomings he sees while in the USSR, he will never go back to the USA.

Unless so noted, info is from the Washington Evening Star, 26 Nov. 1959.

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By authority of: CLD An, 12/22/72

Name and title of person making the change: mtg

Date: 1/4/73

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