

Third American in 2 Months Leaves Soviet 'Home'

MOSCOW, June 8 (UPI)—A former U. S. Marine who came here to live three years ago saying he would never return to America is homeward bound with his wife and child, the U. S. Embassy said today. Lee Harvey Oswald, 23, his Russian wife and their infant child left Moscow about 10 days ago. Officials said their travel plans were not known, but it was believed they would go by train to Le Havre, France, and take a ship from there.

(In Paris, the U.S. Embassy said Oswald had not been in contact with it and was not aboard a ship that left Le Havre yesterday.)

Oswald, formerly of Fort Worth, Tex., came to Moscow in October, 1959, shortly after being discharged from the Marine Corps.

He told newsmen at that time that he planned to acquire Soviet citizenship and that he would "never return to the United States for any reason."

The Embassy said Oswald gave no reason for his desire to return to the United States, but added that during his stay here he retained his citizenship.

Oswald is the third American in less than two months to return home after planning to settle in the Soviet Union.

Robert E. Webster of Zelienople, Pa., who gave up his citizenship, left for the United States as an immigrant last month. David Johnson, a Philadelphia railroad worker, and

his wife and twin sons returned after becoming disillusioned in one week with the Soviet Union.

When Oswald arrived in Moscow, he told newsmen that leaving America was like getting out of prison.

"I would not want to live in the United States and be either a worker exploited by capitalists or a capitalist exploiting workers or become unemployed," Oswald said. "I could not be happy living under capitalism."

U. S. Defector to Reds Turned to Marx at 15

By PRISCILLA JOHNSON
North American Newspaper Alliance

MOSCOW, Nov. 26.—"For two years now I have been waiting to do this one thing: To dissolve my American citizenship and become a citizen of the Soviet Union." Today 20-year-old Lee Harvey Oswald of Fort Worth, Tex., is in Moscow. He hopes he's close to his goal.

With his suit of charcoal gray flannel, dark tie and tan cashmere sweater, Lee looks every bit like Joe College. His life hasn't been that of a typical college boy, however.

His father, an insurance salesman, died before Lee was born. Reared in Texas and Louisiana, the boy spent two years in New York during his early teens. At 17 he enlisted in the Marines.

"I did it because we were poor and I didn't want to be a burden on my mother," he says. Later he spent 14 months as a licensed radar operator in the Far East.

Vows He Won't Return

In September, his three-year hitch nearly over, Lee was given a dependency discharge from the Marines. The next month he arrived in Moscow to petition the Supreme Soviet, highest legislative body in the USSR, for Soviet citizenship. Living in Moscow's Hotel Metropole on money he earned as a United States Marine, Lee Oswald waits for an answer.

Even though Russian officials have warned him Soviet citizenship is not easy to obtain, Lee already refers to the Soviet government as "my government."

"But even if I'm not accepted, on no account will I go back to the United States," Lee says. "I shall remain here, if necessary, as a resident alien." The only thing Soviet officials now promise is that Lee can stay on in Russia regardless of whether he becomes a citizen. Meanwhile, they're "investigating" the possibility of sending him to a Soviet higher technical institute.

Found Answer in Marx

What brought this serious, soft-spoken southern boy to Moscow? Evidently, it's a combination of poverty, what he considers the plight of United States Negroes, and the United States Marines.

"My mother has been a worker all her life," Lee says. "She's a good example of what happens to workers in the United States." He declines to elaborate.

"At the age of 15," he adds, "after watching the way workers are treated in New York, and Negroes in the South, I was looking for a way to my



LEE HARVEY OSWALD
—AP Photo

environment. Then I discovered socialist literature."

Lee was struck, in particular, by Marx's "Das Kapital." He concluded that, as an American, "I would become either a worker exploited for capitalist profit, or an exploiter or, since there are many in this category, I'd be one of the unemployed."

Lee became a Marxist. Later, as a Marine Corps private in Japan and the Philippines, he "had a chance to watch American militarist imperialism in action."

A year ago, Lee began getting ready to come to Russia. Using a Berlitz grammar, he taught himself to read and write Russian. Never, says Lee, a nice-looking six-footer with gray eyes and brown hair, did he consider deserting the Marine Corps.

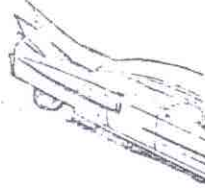
Neither Side Hasty

Does it occur to Lee that Soviet officials may be embarrassed by his effort to become a citizen of their country at a moment when Russia is cultivating good relations with the United States?

Russian officials, says Lee, "don't encourage and don't discourage me." They warn, however, that neither Lee's wish, nor theirs, will determine whether his citizenship application is accepted. They have offered Lee only the sanctuary of a prolonged stay in the USSR.

As for officials at the United States Embassy in Moscow, they are torn between their desire to give Lee time to think it over, and their legal obligation to hear his oath renouncing American citizenship if he insists.

Lee is bitter at United States Consul Richard Snyder, who, he charges, stalled him when he asked to take the oath on October 31, the only time Lee has been at the post. As a result, Lee won't go back there.



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Ex-Marine Asks Soviet Citizenship

MOSCOW, Oct. 31 (UPI) — Lee Harvey Oswald, 20, a recently discharged United States Marine from Fort Worth, Tex., disclosed today that he had taken steps to renounce his American citizenship and become a Soviet citizen. He said the reasons for his move were "purely political."

"I will never return to the United States for any reason," Oswald told a reporter in his room at Moscow's Hotel Metropole.

The young Texan declined to give any details on his background or the reasons for his decision. But a U. S. Embassy official said Oswald had told him he arrived in Moscow on Oct. 15 immediately after his discharge from the Marine Corps and had no regular job in the United States.

Oswald was the third American to have sought to renounce his American citizenship and stay in Russia in recent months.

The first, sheetmetal worker Nichols Petrulli, of Valley Stream, N. Y., changed his mind after applying for Soviet citizenship and returned home to Long Island.

The other is Robert Edward Webster, a plastic technician of Cleveland, Ohio, who came to the Soviet Union in connection with the U. S. fair in Moscow this summer.

"I cannot make any statement until after I receive my Soviet citizenship," Oswald said. "It might jeopardize my position—I mean the Soviet authorities might not want me to say anything."

The U. S. Embassy official said that he had advised Oswald to wait for the Soviet reply to his application for citizenship before giving up his American passport. He said Oswald would retain his full U. S. citizenship until he formally signed a document of renunciation and before he officially accepted Soviet citizenship.

[Oswald's mother, who lives in Fort Worth, could not be reached for comment, the Associated Press said.

His sister-in-law in Fort Worth said: "He said he wanted to travel a lot and talked about going to Cuba."

[An acquaintance said Oswald was a youth who would rather stay in his room than make friends. She said Oswald seemed to be intelligent but showed little inclination for attending high school.]

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United Press International

Rebuffed

Lee Harvey Oswald's dream of achieving Soviet citizenship in exchange for the United States citizenship he renounced appears to be unattainable. The 29-year-old Texan from Fort Worth said Soviet authorities would not grant him citizenship although they said he could live in Russia as a resident alien.

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Too Other Cases

Embassy officials admit they are a bit gunshy. This is their third case of attempted defection this fall. The first, Nicholas Petrulli, 38, of Valley Stream, L. I., changed his mind about defecting just before Russia refused him citizenship. Petrulli, a sheet-metal worker, had a history of mental illness.

The second, Robert Edward Webster, 30, of Cleveland, an employe of the Rand Development Corp., asked for, and received, Soviet citizenship after he had spent the summer working at the United States fair in Moscow's Sokolniki Park. Both Webster and Petrulli had marital troubles back home.

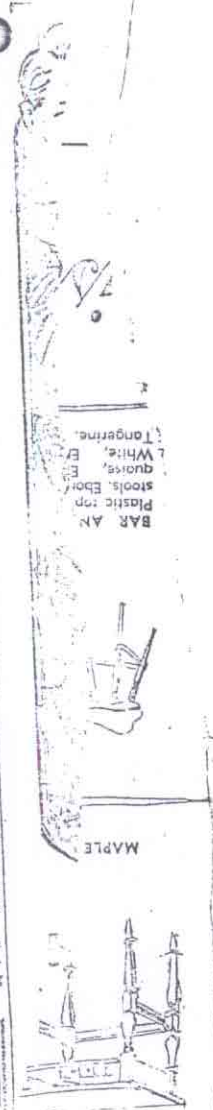
Unlike Webster and Petrulli, Lee Oswald has never been married. His age—he just turned 20 on October 18—is apparently no bar to renouncing his American citizenship. Russians come of age at 18.

As for the ordinary Russians he meets, do they seem surprised by Lee's desire to defect?

"Well," says Lee, "they're very curious and they ask me why." Materialist Muscovites, he adds, "understand when I speak of the idealistic reasons that brought me here. They ask me many questions about the material conditions of workers in the United States."

Regardless of any "material shortcomings" he sees while he's here, Lee insists he will never go back to the United States. "Emigration," he says, "isn't easy. I don't recommend it to everyone. It means coming to a new country, always being the outsider, always having to adjust. But to me, my reasons are strong and good. I believe I'm doing right."

That's why Lee won't take any calls when his mother telephones from Fort Worth to beg him not to defect.



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