

Oswald case

[Handwritten initials]

D/M

U. S. SECRET SERVICE
CO-2-34,030

August 25, 1964

SAIC Geiglein - WFO

Inspector Kelley *[Handwritten initials]*

Sam Sprager

There is attached a letter from the Commission which is self-explanatory.

Mr. Karapatnitsky has been interviewed overseas and stated that he did not recall ever seeing Oswald in Moscow. He also stated that in the hospital at the same time was another elderly American whom he identified as Sam Sprager. Sprager's wife was interviewed in California and said that he was in the hospital at Moscow from September 21 to about October 8, 1959, and his passport indicated that he returned to this country shortly after October 8. Sprager was not interviewed as he was travelling at the time or at the address of his son-in-law in Madison, Wisconsin. Sprager is due on Tuesday, August 25 at the home of Hart G. Sprager, 622 Fairview, Tacoma Park, Maryland, telephone no. 43 4-4710. Mr. Sprager has been notified by his family that an agent will contact him when he is in Washington.

Please arrange to interview Sam Sprager for the purpose of verifying the time of his departure from Moscow. Also, through an interview an attempt to ascertain whether Sprager knew any other elderly Americans in the hospital who might have remained in the hospital after he left and perhaps would be in a position to know Oswald at the hospital. His connection with Karapatnitsky need not be developed since it has been established that Karapatnitsky had no recollection of seeing Oswald at the hospital.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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AUG 7 1964.

James J. Rowley
Chief, United States
Secret Service
Department of Treasury
Washington 25, D. C.

S-O Spronger
506 Palisades
Branch
Pool
Soviet
Moscow

Dear Mr. Rowley:

In Lee Harvey Oswald's "Historic Diary" the entry for October 26, 1959, reads as follows:

"An elderly American in the hospital grows suspicious about me for some reason, perhaps because at the Embassy I told him I had not registered as most tourists and I am in general evasive about my presence in Moscow and in the hospital."

The Historic Diary also notes that he was frequently visited by his Intourist guide, Rima Shirokova. She was described in 1959 as blond, 5'2", 120 pounds, single, attractive and able to speak excellent English. The hospital in which Oswald says he was being treated was the Botkinkaya Hospital in Moscow. He was being treated for a self-inflicted wound on the left wrist. He was confined from October 21 to October 23, 1959. The first two or three days were spent in the "psychiatric ward" and the remainder in the "somatic department."

A previous request to the Department of State as to whether it had any record of who this "elderly American" in Oswald's ward might have been drew the answer that no records of any American in the hospital at the time existed. Very recently, however, the Department of State was discovered that such records do exist.

W. David Slawson of our staff has already spoken with Inspector Thomas Kelley about this matter and has handed to Mr. Kelley the Department of State's passport files on Mr. William Edgerton Morehouse, Jr., and Mr. Walder Boris Kar-patnitsky.

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Both of these men were, according to Department of State records, treated in the Botkinaya Hospital on or about the time Lee Harvey Oswald was supposed to have been there. In addition, Mr. Glawson furnished Inspector Kelley with the name and last known address of Dr. Donald C. Martin, the American physician assigned to the Embassy in 1959, who frequently treated patients at the Botkinaya Hospital. It is our understanding that the Service has already taken steps to follow-up on Mr. Warehouse and Dr. Martin and has kept Mr. Glawson informed of developments there. Inspector Kelley has stated that follow-up on Mr. Kar-patnitsky will begin immediately.

As already stated to Inspector Kelley, the Commission is interested in the Service trying to locate these men and question them on whether they ever saw Lee Harvey Oswald in the hospital at that time and, if so, what details they can remember about him and the persons with him. If they cannot remember having seen Oswald, we are interested in whether they can furnish the names of other Americans who were in the hospital at that time who in turn may have seen Oswald.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel