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How Marina Oswald Got Passport to U. S.

W. J. T. 3/8/67

WASHINGTON—The heavy tracks Lee Harvey Oswald left in the passport office of the State Department here converge dramatically with those of Marina Nikolayevna Prusakova in our Moscow Embassy files.

Marina Prusakova lived in Minsk with her uncle, a high-ranking official of the MVD, the Soviet intelligence service. In her passport application (July 11, 1961) she denied that she was or ever had been a member of the Komsomol, the Communist youth organization, or any other Communist organization.

Marina Prusakova was, in fact, a member of the Komsomol. Had this been known to the State Department after her denial, she was subject to admission refusal into the United States on the ground of having willfully misrepresented a material fact.

Her passport application states that she was born at Severodkin (formerly Molotob) but her family moved to Leningrad when she was 11. She attended the 374th Women's School there and her membership in the Komsomol began there. Then Marina moved to Minsk.

She was introduced to Oswald at a dance at Minsk's Palace of Culture on March 17, 1961. He was immediately given a certificate to marry her, and also the special consent required for an alien to marry a citizen, and they did marry on April 30. The reception was at her MVD uncle's apartment, one of the best in the city.

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OSWALD'S RUSSIAN VISA (No. 403339) had expired. The MVD substituted, instead, U.S.S.R. Identity Document No. 311479. This gave him the run of the Soviet Union.

Oswald picked up his Soviet exit visa in Moscow on May 22. He had an interview that day with MVD officials there.

The first our Moscow Embassy ever heard of Marina

Oswald was on May 25. Oswald wrote a letter, mailed in Minsk May 15, stating he had married a Russian who would want to accompany him to America.

Marina's Russian exit visa required some 20 official U.S.S.R. papers—birth certificate, affidavits, photos, etc. The only name that emerges is that of MVD Colonel Nicolay Aksenov in Minsk.

Oswald and Marina were living in an attractive apartment, rent free, and beyond being supplied a suitable salary he was given a \$70-per-month subsidy from the MVD section of the Soviet "Red Cross." This is a worldwide intelligence front I encountered often in Geneva on the fringes of the completely legitimate International Red Cross.

Our Embassy records show that when Oswald's May 25 letter remained unanswered he appeared there without warning on July 8. It was a Saturday; the offices were closed. Second Secretary Richard E. Snyder, the consul, came to the office after Oswald reached him on his home telephone. Snyder put him off to the following Monday.

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Oswald telephoned Marina in Minsk. Overcoming any travel problem she arrived in Moscow the next day. Snyder met them both at our Embassy on Monday. Marina waited outside his office. Snyder called in Foreign Service Officer John McVickar, his assistant. Oswald and Marina executed before McVickar the procedural papers for her admission to the United States.

In a dispatch dated Aug. 28, 1961, our Embassy requested the State Department here to run a security check on her. The department did so. At this point the tracks cross over into the VIA and FBI, with an assist from State's own Office of Security.

The security checks turned up no derogatory information on her. That is the official finding. The department cabled approval.

Marina Oswald was able to enter the United States aboard the S.S. Maasdam, from Rotterdam, as a nonquota immigrant under the provisions that apply to the wife of an American citizen.