

(290) OSWALD FILE

WASHINGTON, DEC. 1 (AP)-THE SOVIET CONSULAR FILE ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, WAS UNDER OFFICIAL SCRUTINY BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT TODAY AFTER THE RUSSIANS VOLUNTARILY HANDED IT OVER.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH RECEIVED THE FILE YESTERDAY FROM SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANATOLY DOBRYNIN, PROMPTLY TURNED THE DOCUMENTS OVER TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR USE IN ITS PROBE OF THE KENNEDY DEATH.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS SHOT TO DEATH NOV. 22 IN DALLAS, TEX., AND OSWALD WAS FATALLY SHOT TWO DAYS LATER.

OSWALD HAD LIVED IN RUSSIA FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS AND HAD INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO RENOUNCE HIS U. S. CITIZENSHIP BUT IN MID-1962, AFTER AN APPARENT CHANGE OF HEART, HE RETURNED TO THIS COUNTRY.

JUST WHAT THE CONSULAR FILE CONTAINED IN THE WAY OF DOCUMENTS WAS NOT DISCLOSED. SUCH A FILE IN U.S. GOVERNMENT PRACTICE WOULD CONTAIN INFORMATION ON A PERSON'S APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO THIS COUNTRY, WHICH IS USED IN GRANTING VISAS OR ENTRY PERMITS, AND SIMILAR DOCUMENTS.

THE CONSULAR FILE TURNED OVER TO THIS GOVERNMENT BY THE RUSSIANS WAS IN RUSSIAN. PRESUMABLY TRANSLATORS WERE PUT TO WORK PROMPTLY TO CHECK OVER THE DOCUMENTS TO SEE WHETHER THEY COULD SHED ANY FURTHER LIGHT ON OSWALD'S BACKGROUND.

JUST WHEN THE DOCUMENTS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC WAS PROBLEMATIC. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FBI COULD PROVIDE NO CLUE ON THIS POINT AND IT SEEMED MOST LIKELY THAT ANY DISCLOSURE WOULD AWAIT A FORMAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE THE KENNEDY DEATH.

A SEVEN-MAN COMMISSION HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN HAS BEEN NAMED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO LOOK INTO ALL ANGLES OF THE CASE.

THE ACTION OF THE RUSSIANS IN VOLUNTARILY MAKING THE OSWALD CONSULAR FILE AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED STATES APPARENTLY WAS A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP.

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DISPATCHES FROM MOSCOW MEANWHILE INDICATED A SLOW SWING IN THE NATURE OF THE REPORTING IN THE RUSSIAN PRESS ON OSWALD. IN THE BEGINNING OSWALD WAS DEFENDED IN STORIES IN THE MOSCOW PAPERS BUT NOW THE SOVIET PRESS HAS SEIZED ON WESTERN REPORTS THAT OSWALD REALLY WAS ANTI-SOVIET AND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS.

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