

- 11/22/63** Dallas - A new passport was issued last 6/25 to a Lee Harvey Oswald who then gave his permanent address as 757 French Street, New Orleans, where an aunt resided. That passport was issued in New Orleans.
- Oswald had applied, saying he intended, during 10-12/1963, to visit the Soviet Union and seven other European countries as a tourist between October and December of this year.
- His occupation was listed as photographer. The other countries he stated he intended to travel to were England, France, Germany, Holland, Finland, Italy and Poland. *AP*
- 11/23/63** 11/2/59 - In Moscow, Oswald turned in his American passport and in an affidavit declared: "I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialistic Republic." *AP*, 1:18 p.m. CST
- 11/24/63** The 24-year-old Oswald had asserted in a New Orleans radio interview 8/21 that he was a "Marxist" and different from a "Communist." But yesterday Police Chief Jesse Curry of Dallas quoted him as having told police interrogators that he was "a member of the Communist party" and that he was apparently "proud of being a Communist."
- ... Presumably Oswald must have denied that he was a Communist when he was issued a passport by the State Department in New Orleans last 6/25. Passport applications warn that it is illegal for a member of the Communist party to apply for or to use a passport. The applications also require the applicant to swear that he had not been a member of a Communist organization for 12 months or "ever sought or claimed the benefits of the nationality of any foreign state."
- Oswald had sought to become a Soviet citizen in 10/59, but later said that Soviet officials refused to grant him citizenship.
- 11/25/63** New York - ... [Oswald] got back to California in 12/58, to the Third Air Wing at El Toro. There he applied for a discharge for hardship reasons to support his mother. On 9/11/59, he was put on inactive reserve status.
- Government records indicate he was issued a passport in Los Angeles one day earlier. ... By 10/13, he turned up in Moscow. His occupation was listed as shipping export agent. *New York Times*, Peter Kihss
- 11/25/63** New York (undated) - Last June 24, Oswald applied for a new passport ...
- The passport was issued on 6/25, which indicated he must have replied negatively to questions as to whether he had for 12 months been a member of a Communist organization or ever sought foreign nationality. *New York Times*, Peter Kihss
- 11/25/63** New York - On 10/31 [19, Oswald] appeared at the United States Embassy [in Moscow]. He said he had applied for Soviet citizenship.

... On 11/2, he wrote out an affidavit in Moscow: "I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic."

But on 11/14, he said that Soviet officials had refused to grant him Soviet citizenship. They told him he could remain as an alien resident, he said.

... Later he said he had tried for a Soviet exit visa as early as 7/20/60. The United States Embassy got word of his desire to return home on 2/61.

... By 1/62, Oswald had the idea of appealing to Senator John G. Tower ... His handwritten letter said: "I beseech you, Senator Tower, to raise the question of holding by the Soviet Union of a citizen of the United States against his will and expressed desires."

The Senator referred the letter to the State Department.

... On 5/24/62, the United States Embassy in Moscow, on instructions from the State Department, renewed Oswald's old passport ... This was based on a decision that he had not expatriated himself.

The passport was made valid only for return to the United States. At the same time, his wife was granted a visa. The family needed Soviet exit permits.

The Embassy lent the family \$435.71 for travel expenses, presumably based on a claim of destitution.

On June 13, 1962, Oswald, his wife and child arrived in New York. Between October and last January, the travel loan was repaid. *New York Times*, Peter Kihss

**11/29/63**

New Orleans – [Running review of Oswald's stay there during summer of 1963, an account of what FBI investigators turned up while trying to trace his activities there and leaves little doubt details furnished by FBI itself.]

On 6/24 Oswald applied here for an American passport to visit Europe and the Soviet Union.

His application was referred to Washington by teleprinter, where his name was checked against a list of persons who legally may be denied passports.

The records show Oswald had a reputation of "fuzzy Marxist" thinking, but there was no legal reason to deprive him of the passport. It was issued to him on the following day. *New York Times*, Fred Powledge

**12/9/63**

... Why was a passport for an extended trip abroad issued to Oswald last 6/24 (sic) on one day's notice; in view of his record as a one-time defector to Russia? ...

... In 1/62 ... one [letter] was to Senator John G. Tower of Texas: "I beseech you, Senator, Tower, to rise the question of holding by the Soviet Union of a citizen of the United States against his will and expressed desires." ...

... Senator Tower, in a formal statement after President Kennedy's assassination, said he forwarded Oswald's letter of 1/62, to the State Department.

"The State Department informed my office shortly thereafter," said Senator Tower, "In February of 1962, that Mr. Oswald had sworn to an affidavit that he owed his allegiance to the Soviet Union and that he renounced his American citizenship... I closed the case."

Yet, on 5/24 of that same year, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, on instructions from the State Department in Washington, renewed Oswald's passport and amended it to include his Russian wife and daughter born on 2/15.

This decision was based on a ruling that Oswald had not legally expatriated himself. ...

... The State Department says that between 10/62 and 1/63, Oswald repaid the travel loan given to him in Moscow. ... [\$435.71]

... On 6/24, Oswald applied for a new passport at the U.S. Passport Office in New Orleans.

... The passport was issued on 6/25, which indicates Oswald must have replied "no" to questions as to whether he had been a member of a Communist organization or ever sought foreign nationality. ... *U.S. News & World Report*, p. 68 et seq., *The Assassination -- As the Plot Unfolds*, reported from Dallas, Washington, Mexico City.

**12/12/63**

It is not confirmed whether Oswald conferred with U.S. officials after his return, but past practice would make it probable that he had - on his own or the government's initiative. Considering the nature of the book he was writing, and his negative reaction to life in the Soviet Union, Oswald's application for a passport to revisit Russia one year later and the State Department's immediate consent raises a crucial point: for what purpose would he return? *National Guardian*, Jack A. Smith

**12/14/63**

On 6/24 he applied for a passport - for use, he said, in the late fall - to travel in the Soviet Union, England, France, Germany, Holland, Finland, Italy and Poland as a "photographer". *Saturday Evening Post*, p. 23

**12/15/63**

Dallas, Dec. 14 - On 10/31 [59] he walked into the American Embassy [Moscow], slapped his passport down on a desk, and said

he had applied for Soviet citizenship.

The Embassy suggested he had better not sign any papers until he was sure the Soviet Union would accept him. Nonetheless, two days later Oswald swore out an affidavit saying "I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic." [See entries for 10/31 to 11/15/59, Oswald's diary - *Life*, 7/10/64, p. 26. "Published in full" - no mention of this. *AP*, Jules Loh

**12/16/63** Earl Warren raises question of speed with which Oswald was issued passport in New Orleans. Document addendum to the Warren Report (minutes of executive hearing)

**1/64** [An account of new passport obtained in New Orleans in June 1963, despite Russian background, and his trip to Mexico which was watched by a "federal agency," together with an analysis of the effects of having such a background associated with a suspected assassin.]

... Is the hand that reached out from Washington to insure Oswald a passport, to trace his travels in Mexico, and perhaps guide him in even more shadowy activities, also the hand that felled John Kennedy? *The Minority of One, The Death of a President*, Eric Norden, p. 17-18

**2/12/64** Washington (no attribution) - This passport, for himself only, was issued in New Orleans the day after he applied for it. That was done without the customary "name check" required for persons known to be Communists or to have Communist associations. At the time Oswald was granted the passport ... there was a detailed file on him in the State Department ...

This sensational discovery by the special presidential investigating commission has focused attention on Abba Schwartz, controversial head of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs. In this capacity, he has jurisdiction over the Passport Division.

... the assassination probes want the State Department to clarify ... what was done about Oswald's State Department file the day President Kennedy was murdered. Commission members have been told this file was removed and locked in Schwartz' desk not long after Oswald's arrest was announced. Also that Schwartz and Abram Chayes, legal advisor of the State Department, conferred repeatedly that day. [Column indicates that the blame for the prompt and unquestioned issuance of the passport is going to be laid to the State Department.] *San Rafael Independent-Journal*, Column by Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott

**6/13/64** Scheduled to testify this week [before the commission] were several State Department officials, including, ... perhaps most interestingly, Frances Knight, director of the passport division. It was Miss Knight's office that issued with unusual haste a passport to Oswald for a visit to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union last June - a year after he returned to this country following his defection to the Soviet Union. This is a prime reason why some persons are convinced that Oswald was connected with either the State Department or the Central Intelligence Agency. Why else, it is asked, would a person of his doubtful security reputation be granted a passport? *National Guardian*

7/64

Quoting Mrs. Paine describing first meeting with Oswald at the home of friends: "Lee Oswald told about his experiences in the Soviet Union ... He did say that he had gone there because he thought their system superior to ours, and that while there he tried to renounce his citizenship. But our embassy refused to surrender his passport to the Soviet government. If they had, it's doubtful that he could have come back to this country with his wife and their baby." *Redbook*; interview of Ruth Paine, by Jessamyn West

7/10/64

*Life*, p. 26, *Oswald's Historic Diary published in full*

- 1959 Oct. 21            In Moscow. Asked for Soviet citizenship; official tried to dissuade him. At 6 p.m. notified visa would not be extended, ordered to leave country at 8 p.m. Suicide attempt; in hospital until Oct. 28.
- 1959 Oct 31            To American Embassy to dissolve citizenship. Warned by Richard E. Snyder not to take any steps before Russians accepted him and told that dissolution papers would take a long time to prepare "(In other words refuses to allow me at that time to dissolve U.S. citizenship.)"
- 1960 Jan. 4            Called to passport office. Was not granted Soviet citizenship, but given Soviet "residence document" ... "for those without citizenship."
- 1961 Jan. 4            Called to passport office (Minsk?) and asked if he wanted Soviet citizenship. Replied did not but asked for extension of residential passport, which was extended for one year.
- 1961Feb. 1            Applied to American Embassy, Moscow, by letter, for reconsideration of position; wanted to return to U.S.
- 1961 Feb. 28            Reply from Snyder, saying he could come in for interview.
- 1961 July 8            Flew to Moscow to see about getting U.S. passport back and arrange for Marina and himself to return to U.S. The 8th a Saturday but contacted Snyder at Embassy; was asked to return Monday [7/10]. Hearings XVII, p. 283
- 1961 July 9            Sunday. "Interview July 9, receive passport." Diary indicates entries July 8-13, but published version includes nothing between July 9 and 14 [CE 24 identical].
- 1961 Aug. 20            (?) Applied for exit visas.
- 1961 Dec. 25            Exit visas granted.

7/24/64

Washington - There is a sharp difference of opinion in the ... commission .. over its long-rumored report - which is still far from completed.

... Earl Warren ... is pressing vigorously for publishing findings early next month. That is also favored by Allan Dulles ... and Rep. Gerald Ford.

... But other commission members are balking. They contend there are still serious gaps in the testimony and evidence and maintain the inquiry must be continued in an effort to obtain the missing information.

... Another witness [Sen. John Sherman] Cooper is insisting should be brought before the commission is Llewellyn Thompson, ambassador to Russia during the three years Oswald lived there ...

... Thompson, for some unexplained reason, has avoided testifying ... Members of the commission have been told Thompson knows nothing about Oswald.

That doesn't satisfy Cooper and Russell. ... Cooper wants to know particularly why State Department authorities ruled Oswald had not renounced his citizenship after he had gone to the Moscow Embassy and formally disavowed it. There has been no explanation from the department on this.

The official who made the ruling is no longer in the department. [Abram Chayes?] *San Rafael Independent Journal*, Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott

9/28/64

Warren Commission chides State Department for using lax procedures with returning defectors.

...Hindsight disclosed that at one point the State Department, wanting the troublesome Oswald out of the Soviet Union "as soon as possible," successfully urged the Immigration and Naturalization Service to drop its opposition to a U.S. entry visa for Oswald's Russian wife.

But the Report absolved the State Department officials of any favoritism, impropriety or disloyalty in the case...

...Its criticism dealt specifically with failure of the department in two occasions to post "lookout cards" on Oswald's passport file. ... *San Francisco News Call Bulletin*, *AP*, Washington

10/25/65

Commonly known that FBI has agents serving in various foreign countries as embassy legal attaches. Main work gathering intelligence. *AP* Washington

Later same day, JEH denies they gather intelligence. *AP* Washington

4/3/66 In violation of instructions by her superiors, passport director Frances Knight has ordered a direct "scrambler" telephone to the CIA installed in her office ... Miss Knight has on her staff at least three persons in "intimate" contact with the CIA -- if not directly in that agency's employ.

Three years ago Miss Knight was ordered to end her direct connections with the CIA -- and especially to remove a private CIA line she had then. ...

A private security phone to the CIA gives the passport office the potential of getting and giving out information --without the knowledge of the Secretary of State or his undersecretaries. These matters could include -- as they have in recent years -- the granting of special passports to CIA agents and the agents of other intelligence agencies. ... *New York Herald-Tribune*, Barnard L. Collier, Washington

10/66 Oswald's relationship with the State Department; full account of irregularities in handling of his passports, etc. ("undeviating and uninterrupted record of clerical errors and administrative options which operated invariably for the benefit of the undeserving Oswald"); suggestion that Oswald was involved with some government agency. *Minority of One*, Sylvia Meagher, *Oswald and the State Department*

3/25/67 It normally takes about a week to receive a new passport during the tourist season. But if you have a real emergency, you can get one in as little as 15 minutes.

Emergencies: relatives going to Vietnam to visit wounded, cases stemming from sudden illness, injury or death, arrest, eloping daughters and other happenings.

Emergencies after regular office hours handled by watch officers who can be reached by telephone around the clock. *AP* A23  
Gulick Washington