

Oswald's Hunger for Attention

A Life of Discontent

Washington

All his life, Lee Harvey Oswald hungered for attention. He never knew the normal paths to fulfillment of that need through meaningful relationships.

He fancied himself a historical figure frustrated by a hostile society. His personal world drove him to dramatic devices, including even a gesture toward self-destruction, to win attention.

He failed repeatedly until, reaching for the ultimate in dramatics, he commanded the attention of the whole world.

Oswald died after doing so, but that seemed entirely consistent with his own life, for he "had demonstrated a capacity to act decisively and without regard to the consequences when such action would further his aims of the moment."

This is a shortened version of the "background and possible motives" of Oswald as reported yesterday by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

The Commission declared:

"Many factors were undoubtedly involved in Oswald's motivation for the assassination, and the Commission does not believe that it can ascribe to him any one motive or group of motives. It is apparent, however, that Oswald was moved by an overriding hostility to his environment.

"He does not appear to have been able to establish meaningful relationships with other people. He was

perpetually discontented with the world around him. Long before the assassination he expressed his hatred for American society and acted in protest against it . . ."

Oswald was born two months after his father's death.

When the mother, Marguerite C. Oswald, worked during the school year, the Commission reported, "Lee

had to leave an empty house in the morning, return to it for lunch and then again at night." The boy slept in the same bed as his mother until he was nearly 11.

Oswald's hatred of society came out time and again. In the Marine Corps he showed his hatred of authority, baiting his officers.

He got out of the Marine Corps Reserve prematurely

by saying that his mother needed his support, but alienated his support, but almost immediately he went to the Soviet Union and tried to renounce his United States citizenship.

The Commission interpreted this as "a profound rejection of his early life."

The Soviet Union's failure to receive him with open arms "shocked" Oswald, he wrote in his self-styled "Historic Diary." He slashed his wrists, but was found and hospitalized.

The Soviet authorities finally permitted Oswald to remain and gave him a job, in a Minsk factory. He soon discovered that the "freedom" he sought could not be found there.

Oswald decided to get out and opened negotiations with Soviet authorities. Then he met and married Marina Prusakova.

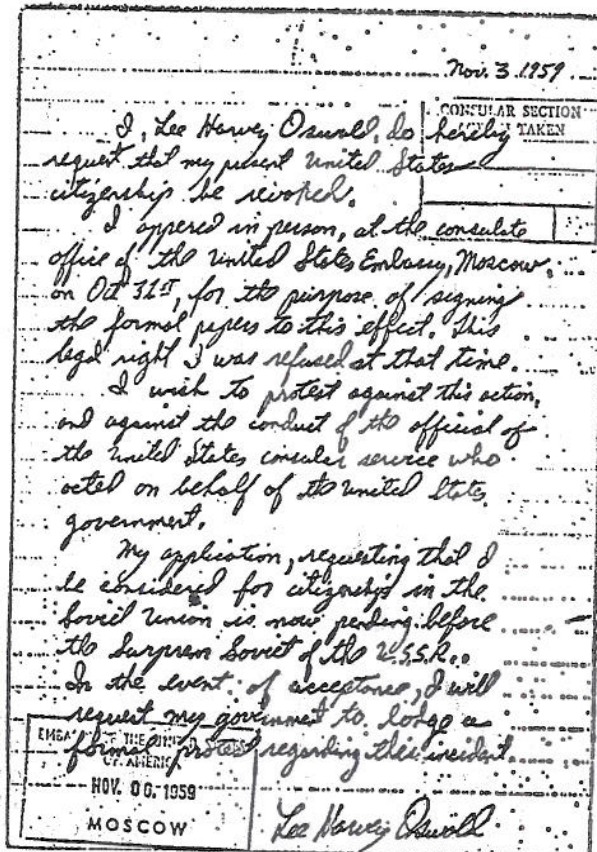
Oswald, not yet 23, returned to the United States bitterly disappointed.

His wife reported that their relationship in the United States changed and that trivial things would "drive him into a rage."

The couple's relationship was often stormy.

The difficulties that Oswald's problems would have caused him "were probably not reduced by his wife's conduct," the report said. Acquaintances testified that "right in front" of Oswald, Marina Oswald complained about Oswald's inadequacy as a husband."

New York Times



Oswald wrote this letter protesting U.S. refusal to revoke his citizenship