

11/30/63

Oswald's Book on Russia

Fort Worth

Accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald wrote at least part of a book intimating he went to Russia as a secret agent for the United States.

A stenographer who typed for him said yesterday that he bitterly criticized everything he saw in the Soviet Union.

The stenographer, Pauline V. Bates, said she typed what she judged to be a third of the manuscript on June 18, 19 and 20, 1962. This was just after Oswald returned to the U. S. from a two-year and nine-month stay in Russia.

NOTES

The notes were on whole sheets of paper, pieces of wrapping paper and parts of envelopes—and Oswald told her he had smuggled them out of Russia in his shirt.

"When the State Department granted my visa, they stipulated they could not stand behind me in any way," Oswald told her.

Miss Bates said this was exactly what Oswald said despite the fact that Russia—not the U. S. State Department—granted him the visa to visit Russia. Travelers to Iron Curtain countries are customarily advised by the State Department that they travel at their own risk.

She said there were other ways he hinted that he was an agent, but she could not remember them.

RETURN

Oswald was in Russia from October, 1959, to June, 1962. He came to Miss Bates shortly after he returned to Fort Worth with a Russian-born wife and a baby daughter.

"Conditions (in Russia) were terrible in his eyes," Miss Bates said he wrote. Several families lived in one room. Everyone worked there, he wrote—women as well as men. Children were placed in nurseries until they were old enough to go to state schools. He mentioned the continual, perpetual pressure of the Communist party and the spying and the fear of bugs (electronic listening devices).

"People spoke openly only in parks. He wrote about the May Day parades, carefully arranged. You better turn out unless you are really sick. Oswald said he worked in a factory in Minsk 12 and 14 hours a day on a quota basis.

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