

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson	✓
Belmont	✓
Mohr	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
DeLoach	✓
Evans	
Gale	
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

TO : W. C. SULLIVAN *wcs* DATE: November 29, 1963

FROM : D. J. BRENNAN *DJB*

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA

## SYNOPSIS:

My attached memorandum 11/25/63 discussed the advance made by State in Moscow to Oswald to enable him to return to the U.S. As another passport was later issued to him at New Orleans on 6/25/63, the Director instructed that we secure all details.

State files show Oswald, residing Minsk, Russia, in correspondence with U.S. Embassy, Moscow, in February, March, and May, 1961, finally appearing in person 7/8/61. He held Soviet "stateless" passport which Embassy stated was prima facie evidence he was not regarded as Soviet citizen. As he had not legally renounced U. S. citizenship, his U. S. passport was returned to him, valid only for return to U. S. He was unable, however, to secure Soviet exit visas for self and wife until 1962.

State records indicate Oswald signed promissory note in Moscow on 6/1/62 for \$435.71 for transportation Moscow to New York. State advised Oswald's mother that he and family would leave Moscow 6/1/62 for Rotterdam, Netherlands, en route to New York City where they would arrive 6/13/62. State records further indicate the note was repaid in installments as follows: 8/7/62 - \$10; 9/1/62 - \$9.71; 10/6/62 - \$10; 11/14/62 - \$10; 12/7/62 - \$190; 1/5/63 - \$100; 1/25/63 \$106; account posted paid in full 2/7/63. All payments but first (which was cash) were made by postal money orders mailed from various points in Texas. It was at first reported by State that the final payment had been credited to his account 7/7/63; however, examination of the actual records has disclosed a copy of the receipt which was issued on 2/7/63 for the final payment, which had been remitted 1/25/63. Xerox copy of this receipt obtained and attached.

Under the terms of the promissory note signed by Oswald, he would not be furnished a passport for foreign travel until his obligation had been fully repaid. Inasmuch as the next passport was issued

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- Enclosures
- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 - Miss Holmes     | 1 - Mr. Handley  |
| 1 - Mr. Belmont     | 1 - Mr. Branigan |
| 1 - Mr. Rosen       | 1 - Mr. Turner   |
| 1 - Mr. Sullivan    | 1 - Liaison      |
| 1 - Mr. D. E. Moore | 1 - Mr. Bartlett |

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RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)

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Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan  
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

to him at New Orleans, Louisiana, 6/25/63, it appears that State did not exceed the terms of this agreement. State has informed us that as a matter of routine procedure, it advances return passage to the U.S. to U.S. citizens who find themselves destitute abroad. There is no statutory authorization for this but a confidential item is included in State's appropriation annually to cover these advances. State's Foreign Affairs Manual sets out criteria for such advances, and specifically authorizes loans to U. S. nationals in "a situation which is damaging to the prestige of the U. S. Government" without requiring that the individual's loyalty to the U. S. be beyond question.

ACTION:

For information.

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RELEASED PER P.L.-102-526 (JFK ACT)

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Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan  
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

DETAILS:

My attached memorandum 11/25/63 referred to press comment indicating Oswald had received another U.S. passport at New Orleans, Louisiana, on 6/25/63. We noted that prior to this State had advanced Oswald his passage back to the U.S. from Russia and that this had been repaid in installments. The Director asked that we secure all details concerning this.

Files of the Department of State disclose on 2/28/61 American Embassy, Moscow, informed Department of State it had received 2/13/61 undated letter from Oswald postmarked Minsk, 2/5/61, and Moscow, 2/11/61. Letter requested return of his American passport and stated desire by him to return U.S. if they could agree to dropping of any legal proceedings against Oswald. He felt if he could show Soviet authorities his American passport, they would give him exit visa. Oswald stated Soviets had at no time insisted he take Russian citizenship and he was living there with nonpermanent papers for a foreigner. He stated he could not leave Minsk without permission so was writing instead of calling in person. He maintained his American citizenship in letter.

On 3/24/61 Embassy, Moscow, notified State it had received letter from Oswald 3/20/61 postmarked Minsk March 5, and Moscow, March 17, stating he found it inconvenient to come to Moscow solely for interview; he did not think it appropriate to seek permission to leave Minsk; he did not intend to abuse his position there and saw no reason why preliminary inquiries could not be sent to him by questionnaire. Embassy stated it had written Oswald it was Soviet Government's position to interpose no objection to visits to Embassy by American citizens in Soviet Union and in order for Embassy to determine his citizenship status, personal interview required so pertinent statements could be taken under oath.

On 5/26/61 Embassy, Moscow, informed State it had received undated letter from Oswald postmarked 5/16/61 stating in part he desired full guarantees he would not under any circumstances be prosecuted for any action pertaining to this case should he return U.S. Letter stated Oswald married to Russian woman who would want to accompany him to U.S. Letter stated his status was "without citizenship." Embassy pointed out that if Oswald's designation as "without citizenship" in Soviet internal passport accurate, this was prima facie indication Soviet Government did not regard him as Soviet citizen. Embassy stated it thus appeared he had not yet expatriated himself under Section 349(a) Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. Embassy cautioned against idea of mailing passport to Oswald and informed State it would request instructions before granting him passport or certificate of identity.

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Embassy, Moscow on 7/11/61 reported to State Oswald appeared at Embassy 7/8/61 re desire return to U.S. with wife. Communication stated he executed questionnaire re possible expatriative actions. Embassy stated in lengthy questioning no evidence was revealed of any action which might have caused loss of U.S. citizenship. Oswald exhibited Soviet internal "stateless" passport 311479 issued Moscow 1/14/60 which Embassy stated is prima facie evidence. Oswald not regarded as Soviet citizen. Oswald claimed never to have applied for Soviet citizenship; related had been employed since 1/13/60 at radio and television factory, Minsk, as metal worker in research shop, earning 90 rubles (approximately \$18). Oswald claimed took no oath and signed no papers for employment; did not join Trade Union Organization; had not been called upon to make radio, press, or personal statements re decision reside Soviet Union; and had been interviewed briefly third day after arrival by radio Moscow but only few routine comments made, no political significance.

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Communication reported Oswald stated he had never been subjected to questioning or briefing by Soviets re life before entering USSR and never provided such information to any Soviet organization. On this occasion Embassy informally advised Oswald it did not perceive on what grounds he might be prosecuted leading to lengthy imprisonment, but he was clearly informed Embassy could give no assurance regarding prosecution which he understood.

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Embassy advised Oswald's passport was returned to him valid only for return to the U.S. to enable him apply for exit visa in Minsk. Communication continued: "Twenty months of the realities of life in the Soviet Union have clearly had a maturing effect on Oswald. He stated frankly that he had learned a hard lesson the hard way and that he had been completely relieved of his illusions about the Soviet Union at the same time that he acquired a new understanding and appreciation of the United States and the meaning of freedom. Much of the arrogance and bravado which characterized him on his first visit to the Embassy appears to have left him."

On 10/12/61 Embassy, Moscow, detailed letters written by Oswald between July and October outlining his difficulties in obtaining Soviet exit visas for himself and wife, noting they were subjects of increasing harassment in Minsk. He requested Embassy inquire official re visas but Embassy informed him it had no way of influencing Soviet action.

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On 1/16/62 Embassy, Moscow, advised State Oswald had been issued new Soviet resident's permit until 7/5/62 and had been assured by Soviets of exit documentation upon request valid for 45 days. Embassy was notified by Soviets of issuance of foreign passport to Mrs. Oswald with exit visa good until 12/1/62. Oswald desired delay departure until wife's U.S. visa in order for departure together. Embassy stated Oswald raised question of repatriation loan and Embassy requested advice. State told Moscow about 2/1/62 loan not approved pending receipt of application for same per regulations.

State files contain copy of promissory note signed by Lee Harvey Oswald 6/1/62 at Moscow, witnessed by Winifred Williams, at American Embassy. Statement outlined cost of transporting family as \$418 plus 105.94 rubles. Oswald contributed 90 rubles toward price of rail tickets so total obligation to him was \$435.71. Oswald agreed to repay this sum and agreed with understanding he would not be furnished passport for foreign travel until his obligation to reimburse Treasurer of U.S. was liquidated. In statement he also authorized repayment of loan from any moneys due him from Veterans Administration or any other U.S. Government agencies.

State advised Oswald's mother that her son and his family were leaving Moscow 6/1/62 for Rotterdam, Netherlands, where they would board the SS "Maasdam" arriving New York City 6/13/62.

State Department Office of Finance records contain loan account number 38210 for Lee Harvey Oswald with original debit of \$435.71 and shows following details concerning the repayment of this advance:

Remittance dated 8/7/62, received 8/13/62, \$10 cash from Oswald, 7313 Davenport Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

Remittance dated 9/1/62, received 9/5/62, \$9.71 by money order, serial number 11-56,417,562, from Oswald, 2703 Mercedes Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

Remittance dated 10/6/62, received 10/10/62, \$10 postal money order, serial number 11-56,418,866, from Oswald, 2703 Mercedes Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

Remittance dated 11/14/62, received 11/19/62, \$10 postal money order, serial number 11-58,380,709, from Oswald, Box 2915, Dallas, Texas.

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Remittance dated 12/7/62, received 12/11/62, \$190 in postal money orders for \$100 and \$90, serial numbers 11-58,384,596, and 11-58,384,597, respectively, from Oswald, Box 2915, Dallas, Texas.

Remittance dated 1/5/63, received 1/9/63, \$100 postal money order, serial number 2,202,000,060, from Oswald, Box 2915, Dallas, Texas

Remittance dated 1/25/63, received 1/29/63, \$106 in two postal money orders, serial numbers 2,202,003,534 and 2,202,003,535, from Oswald, Box 2915, Dallas, Texas.

Account posted paid by Office of Finance, Department of State 2/7/63. It was originally noted by State that the final payment had been posted on 7/7/63, but when ledger sheet examined and original records consulted, it was determined that the payment had actually been posted 2/7/63. A Xerox copy of the final receipt was secured and is attached.

State's Foreign Affairs Manual, Volume 7, Special Consular Services, sets out rules under which financial assistance loans may be made for the repatriation of destitute U.S. nationals. One of the criteria for such loans is that the recipient's loyalty to the U.S. Government must be beyond question. An exception to this is, however, provided for an individual who "is in or is the cause of a situation which is damaging to the prestige of the U. S. Government or which constitutes a compelling reason for extending assistance to effect his return." At the Director's request, we have asked State if it is their practice to allow individuals who have renounced their citizenship to return to the U.S. Our inquiry has been discussed on a high level within State and State's Legal Adviser is now preparing a response. This is being followed separately by Liaison.

*Jo* *Wey*