

Status of American Defectors in the Soviet Union

1. Joseph DUTKANICZ. (see Embassy Despatch 851, dated March 27, 1962): Subsequent to the information which has already been reported on Dutkanicz, his wife departed for the United States, and he is making every effort to bring about his own release. He was awarded Soviet citizenship by a special decree of the Supreme Soviet, apparently for his espionage activities on behalf of the Soviets while he was still a member of the U.S. Army in Germany, but his present citizenship status with respect to his American citizenship is unclear. For the time being, at least, Dutkanicz is residing in Lvov with his three children (all of whom are American citizens), trying to figure out how he can get back to the U.S.A. He called the Embassy as recently as the 17th or 18th of April in an effort to determine what he should next undertake in his efforts to get back to the U.S.A., and was merely told that he will require a Soviet exit visa before he can leave. In his call, he also mentioned that he had received a severe grilling from the Soviet authorities for having visited the American Embassy in Moscow, and indicated that they were more than a bit displeased with his conduct on that occasion. Since he has received an "Undesirable Discharge" from the U.S. Army and was granted Soviet citizenship by special decree, his American citizenship is in doubt at the moment, and even were it to be established, it is at best problematical if the Soviets will issue him an exit visa and permit him to leave the country.

2. Vladimir SLOBODA. (see: Embassy Despatch 841, dated March 23, 1962): Although Sloboda is equally anxious to leave the Soviet Union, his case at the moment appears rather hopeless; his wife has returned to England, but he remains with his three children in Lvov, although his wife plans to initiate measures from England to secure the release of the three children to her. A letter has recently been sent to Sloboda by the Embassy requesting him to come in to arrange for the renewal of his child's passport, since one of the children, Victor Edwin, is an American citizen by birth, although his passport has expired.

3. Robert WEBSTER: After a considerable period of delay, Webster has now received an exit permit from the Soviet authorities, but the Embassy is awaiting Departmental advisory approval before issuing an American passport for his return to the U.S.A.

4. Lee OSWALD: It has been determined that Oswald, the ex-Marine, is still an American citizen; both he and his Soviet wife now have exit permits, and the Department has given approval for their travel with their infant child to the U.S.A. There is a problem with his wife, however, in that SOV in the Department is trying to get a waiver of 243G, which requires that Oswald's wife pick up her visa for entry into the U.S.A. in Western Europe. As soon as this question has been settled, they will be free to travel."

REVIEWED BY <sup>DO5</sup> ~~DO5~~/JFK TASK FORCE

~~XEROX~~ MORRIS and MOLLY  
JUN 1 1962

- ON 12/5/95 ny/dec
- RELEASE IN FULL
- RELEASE IN PART
- TOTAL DENIAL

ENCLOSURE  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE 105-82555

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5. Morris and Molly BLOCK: The Block couple are still in Odessa, awaiting an advisory opinion from the Department on the issuance of passports. The Soviet authorities have apparently assured them that they will receive exit visas with no difficulty. Apparently, both Morris and Molly are still American citizens, even though at the moment they hold stateless passports. Both are aware that they are liable to prosecution in the United States for applying for passports in a false name--in point of fact, Morris actually travelled under an assumed name, although his wife utilized her genuine passport for this travel. There is, however, some problem concerning their adopted Greek child, in connection with the child's entry into the United States and the Embassy is currently awaiting an advisory opinion from the Department on the child's admissibility.