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District Field Office
11 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Headquarters

SUBJECT : ~~LESNIK, George M. (A)~~
#262 622 C SD/1

1. Reference is made to Headquarters letter of assignment in this case dated 4 March 1964.

2. During the period 20-28 February 1964, while SUBJECT was under the protective custody of Special Agents Stanley C. LACH, George R. BREWER and Alfred B. McGARRAGHY, SUBJECT voluntarily furnished information concerning his background and activities, as well as other information of operational interest, the substance of which is set forth in the succeeding paragraphs. It is to be noted that at no time did any of the above-named agents solicit any of this information or make inquiries of the SUBJECT regarding any of the matters discussed by him. SUBJECT spontaneously related these incidents in casual conversation during leisure periods and while enroute with the agents to and from places of entertainment etc. In most cases newspapers, magazines and TV programs prompted the SUBJECT to make comments relative to these matters. Following is a summarization of this information:

SPORTS, HOBBIES

(a) On 20 February 1964 SUBJECT disclosed that he enjoys the following sports: football, hockey and billiards.

FOREIGN TRAVEL

(b) He also revealed that he has previously been in the United States while enroute to Cuba, Venezuela and other Latin American countries. He has at one time or another during his service with the KGB visited and worked on operational projects for the Soviet Union in practically all of the countries of Europe; however, he has never

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traveled to the Far East, except while handling an agent who was active against the Japanese. He (SUBJECT) stayed in the Kurile Islands which are within sight of Japan. This was in 1949. He said that he was active in the picking up of agents by plane and ship in this area.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

(c) In the latter part of the evening on this same date, 20 February 1964, the SUBJECT stated that his father was a member of the Communist Central Committee, one of the first members of the Communist Party, and that he had great respect for his father. The SUBJECT also indicated that his father was a shipbuilder and later became one of the first to organize and set up the Russian Atomic Energy Plant. It was during this latter activity that he (the SUBJECT's father) and three other officials came in contact with radiation, which affected his father's liver and a few years later at the age of 54 his father died of cancer. The SUBJECT went on to state that his father, being a very prominent Communist, was given treatment for this cancer in a special hospital which is located in the hills outside of the city of Moscow, and during his tenure in this hospital the family resided with his father. They had five room living quarters beside the room in which his father was confined. This privilege, he said, is only given to the especially prominent VIPs of the Communist Party, indicating that his father was one of the top men in the Communist Party.

MILITARY ACTIVITY

(d) The SUBJECT revealed that in 1949, at the age of 16, he was a Naval Cadet. He was called into the service before graduating from what is our equivalent of a high school. He had taken part in the fighting in the Black Sea Area where he described hand-to-hand combat with Germans, claimed he was wounded, and because of his bravery he was awarded the Soviet Order Medal and the Order of Stalin. The SUBJECT stated this was unusual for a person of his age and gained him great respect. At the end of the war he had no more desire for military life although his superiors tried to keep him in the military. Instead, he went for four years to the Institute of Foreign Relations and learned the English language. Upon graduation, a man came to him and told him that he had a job lined up for him. He stated that this actually was more like being ordered to take this particular job which turned out

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to be with the Naval Intelligence. He claimed that there were two military intelligence organizations at the time, the Naval and the Ground Force military type.

LEE OSWALD IN RUSSIA

(e) On 23 February 1964, as SUBJECT approached the table for the evening meal, he noted that the Time magazine lying on the coffee table in the living room had a picture of Marie OSWALD. As he sat down he hit the table with his fist and said, "I feel that I could have stopped OSWALD". At this point Special Agent Stanley C. LACH asked him "how?". He proceeded to state that he (SUBJECT) was head of the KGB Tourist and Visitors Section which kept control over the activities of OSWALD while he was in the Soviet Union. He said at the time, OSWALD was of no special concern or interest to the KGB because he lacked intelligence background. Therefore, when he applied for permission to leave Russia, they (KGB) under his (SUBJECT) direction informed OSWALD that he would have to make his application through the appropriate channels of the State Department, who in turn would request his release from the Russian counterparts in handling of visas. This he said was all done for propaganda and show purposes. He went on to state that if they really wanted to release OSWALD, it could have been done on the spur of the moment, but since OSWALD had nothing and was not worth anything, they decided that this was an opportunity to show the American State Department that they did not mind releasing individuals if they applied for release through the appropriate channels. Prior to this application for release of OSWALD, the SUBJECT stated that since he was of no particular interest to them and there was nothing in Moscow that they could use him for or place him into, they decided that they would send OSWALD to Minsk where he would be placed in a factory working on radios in the hope that some training in the electrical and electronic field might result in his development into an electronics engineer; however, he showed no capability in this field. The SUBJECT then stated that it was just at this period, before sending OSWALD to Minsk, that a very strange thing happened.

OSWALD was supposed to have a meeting with a travel agent in regard to preparations for his going to Minsk at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. At 6 o'clock he still did not report to the travel agent, so the travel agent decided to go to the hotel where OSWALD was staying to see if he could locate him. When he got to the hotel he asked the clerk if OSWALD

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was in his room, the clerk nodded affirmatively, and the travel agent proceeded to OSWALD's room. He tried the door, but the door was locked. He knocked, got no response, and then with the assistance of the clerk they broke into the room and found OSWALD lying across the bed with both of his wrists slashed. The travel agent and the clerk responded immediately by taking OSWALD to the near-by medical facility where he was given blood transfusions and after a period of time regained his strength. During the investigation the following day the SUBJECT stated that the doctor indicated that had OSWALD not been found for approximately ten more minutes, he would have been dead. It is here that the SUBJECT again pounded the table and said if the travel agent had not broken into the room, but had instead contacted the KGB office like they are instructed to when they do not get any response from people with whom they have appointments, that he (SUBJECT) would have most likely directed the travel agent to forget about him, and on the following day or later that evening he would have sent one of the KGB agents to check on OSWALD, at which time he would have been found dead. This, he went on to state, is what hurts him when he realizes that he could have been instrumental in disposing of OSWALD without any special inquiry or serious investigation, OSWALD being nothing, and at the same time today the President of the United States, President KENNEDY, would be alive. The SUBJECT then went on to state that after OSWALD was sent to Minsk it was there that he met Marie. Like himself (OSWALD), Marie was a girl from a peasant family with no special background and somewhat illiterate. It was because of her poor background that she was given permission to marry OSWALD and return to the United States as his wife.

The SUBJECT then went on to describe what took place on the day that President KENNEDY was assassinated. He said that this was actually on Saturday in Moscow, the 22nd of November. He was home at the time and happened to have the radio on, when he heard that the President of the United States had been assassinated. Approximately one hour later, the radio informed him that the assassin was Lee OSWALD. This announcement, he said, really stunned him. He grabbed his coat and dashed to his office. Immediately upon his arrival he searched for the OSWALD file. When he found the file he reviewed it and found that OSWALD had not been used or even approached for use by the Russian Intelligence. He put in a long distance call to the Chief of the KGB Section in Minsk and inquired whether they had used, trained or prepared OSWALD in any way for intelligence activity. The Chief informed him that according to what he could recall, they had not made any use of OSWALD. Just about this time, he (SUBJECT) stated that his superior walked into the office and directed

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the SUBJECT to get all the information available on OSWALD and prepare a summary to be furnished the top officials of the Communist Party. The SUBJECT then directed the KGB Agent in Minsk to likewise prepare a summary of his file on OSWALD and informed him that within twenty minutes a KGB agent would arrive by special military plane to pick up the summary for return to Moscow. He said this was accomplished, and within one hour they were preparing a detailed report on OSWALD's activity in Russia. This, concluded the SUBJECT, is the story of OSWALD in Russia.

C. P. AFFILIATION

(f) The SUBJECT also indicated that he did not join the Communist Party until he was 27 years old, and he did this out of respect to his father, who at the time was on his death bed and asked him (SUBJECT) whether he would do him one more favor before he died. That is how the SUBJECT stated he joined the Communist Party. Otherwise, he probably would not have been a member to this day.

DIPLOMATS AND INTELLIGENCE TYPES

(g) The SUBJECT stated that the KGB are able to differentiate between Americans who are assigned to Moscow and are actually the State Department type, from those who have an intelligence background, by the fact that the intelligence type of people do not associate with the Russian girls, that is they will not go out with them alone, whereas the State Department type will. Also, over a period of a month or two, they invariably are able to find evidence that the intelligence types have been masturbating. This is usually detected through close examination of the individual's towels and bed sheets.

RUSSIAN U-1 AIRCRAFT

(h) On 25 February 1964 during the evening meal, a discussion was had regarding the recent airplane crashes noted in the newspapers and on TV in the United States. The SUBJECT commented that he has a lot of friends who are test pilots and who are now engaged in testing what he referred to as a U-1 type of aircraft that is faster than any other aircraft in the world. He added that these friends are highly paid but they have very dangerous jobs.

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SUBJECT'S FATHER

(i) The SUBJECT also made reference to his father during this meal, describing him as a very tall and extremely well-built individual, and one who was extremely intelligent and a self-made, self-educated man. He learned the shipbuilding trade mostly through his own research and study, and also from the SUBJECT's grandfather, who was one of the first shipbuilders in Russia. The SUBJECT added that his grandfather died at the age of 94. He also stated that after the death of his father, a memorial was built in his memory since he was considered a very capable director of the government shipping industry. That was about the last time he saw his mother and brother and sister, as they all went to this ceremony in honor of his father. He also indicated that there was a periodical which gave a complete run-down on his family background, including that of his grandfather and his father, and it was well publicized; and this he believes had a lot to do with his being able to get some special preference and move along as fast as he did in the KGB organization.

KGB PRESSURE ON FAMILY

(j) On 27 February 1964 during lunch, the SUBJECT stated that he has been informed that the KGB is putting pressure on his immediate family, particularly his mother. However, he said he was not overly worried about her because she is well-off financially, and being up in age there is not much they can do to her. However, what concerns him most is the fact that they have already started to play on the sympathies of his two children and his wife. The SUBJECT stated that he was anticipating this; however, he did not think that they would start so soon to pressure the family. However, he does have some hope that in due time he may be able to get his family out of Russia. This hope he said was given to him by the Chief of SR Division.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PENETRATION

(k) On 25 February 1964 during a sightseeing tour of Washington by vehicle, as we passed the Library of Congress, the SUBJECT pointed to the building and stated that "we have people working in there". Special Agent Stanley C. LACH said, "who is 'we'?" and the SUBJECT answered, "KGB". He continued by stating that this was a good place to place people because they could readily learn by just watching what research was being done in the Library of Congress by the military

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and thereby get an idea as to what the military was planning in the way of armaments and things of that nature. The SUBJECT also advised that the responsibility for getting information surreptitiously from American Embassies in foreign countries who employ indigenous personnel, falls within the confines of the KGB. He stated that the way they go about this is to work through the indigenous personnel and arrange to enter the embassy at special times during the night. They would first make a close survey and a photograph of the area in which the embassy keeps its classified material, then they would subsequently enter this area and open up the safes. When he was asked how this was done he stated, "oh, combinations to safes are not hard to acquire". He said that the important and difficult part of this activity is taking the material out and photographing it and then placing it exactly as it was before they touched it.


JOHN D. NOBLE, JR.
Special Agent in Charge 

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