

NR_key_name: 4B81A894B98F0C408525634800613C5B
SendTo: CN=Jeremy Gunn/O=ARRB @ ARRB
CN=David Marwell/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Mary McAuliffe/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Tom Samoluk/O=ARRB @ ARRB
CopyTo:
DisplayBlindCopyTo:
BlindCopyTo:
From: CN=Joseph Freeman/O=ARRB
DisplayFromDomain:
DisplayDate: 06/13/1996
DisplayDate_Time: 2:12:01 PM
ComposedDate: 06/13/1996
ComposedDate_Time: 1:42:04 PM
Subject: Passenger and crew list of the Maasdam

During an unrelated conversation with Mike Leahy of INS earlier today, I was told that INS has the passenger and crew arrival manifest of the Maasdam for the journey that brought Lee & Marina Oswald back to the United States. He saw it at some INS facility in Martinsburg (?), West Virginia. I believe he said it's on microfilm. Mike actually reviewed it/is reviewing it (not clear which) for purposes of forwarding it to NARA -- not under the JFK Act, but for the genealogical division. He says he doesn't know how NARA utilizes it once they get it (ie, can people just scroll down through all the names or does a genealogical researcher request a search for a specific name only, etc.). The details of when the transfer might take place, etc, are not clear either. Mike says he deleted/has deleted nothing, but he seems a little nervous. The reason he asked me about it, I think, is that he seems to recall seeing some TV documentary on which it was stated that the CIA had released the manifest at some point, having redacted all but the Oswalds' names. I asked Tom and Doug what they knew about any previous release of the ship's manifest, and they weren't certain as to its status, suggesting I forward the issue to you and David. I made a quick check of Newman, Posner and Epstein and found no confirmation that the manifest is already open. Epstein, in Legend, says in a footnote that "The Warren Commission was not able to locate any witness, other than Marina, who saw him [Oswald] aboard the SS Maasdam." This would imply that the WC/CIA worked from the manifest in looking for such potential witnesses. Epstein's other relevant reference to the journey is as follows: "Years later Marina told her biographer, Priscilla Johnson McMilan, that there was a Russian-speaking waiter named Pieter Didenko who spoke to them during the voyage. However, there is no available ship's record showing a person with such a name[emphasis added]." The last sentence seems to me to be a little obscure. For what it's worth, Leahy described the manifest he examined as a manifest of passengers and crew. Does anyone else know something about this issue, and should we follow up in some way with Leahy?

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ReturnReceipt:
Categories: