

October 21, 1997

Colonel Oleg Maximovich Nechiporenko  
26/2-269, ul A.k. Kapitsa  
117647 Moscow  
Russia

Dear Colonel Nechiporenko:

I want to apologize for this delay in responding to your last letter. Although this is long overdue, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your detailed responses to our questions and for offering to assist us with our efforts to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Lee Harvey Oswald's stay in Mexico City. Fortunately, the Review Board has been extended through September 30, 1998 which will allow us to seek closure on the additional research leads that have been identified as well as meet our obligation to Congress of ensuring that the necessary review and declassification process of assassination records is completed.

First of all, in response to your own inquiries, I can offer the following information:

1. We have reviewed some documents relating to Oswald's visit to the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans September 1963, which originated with the Warren Commission and the FBI. Many of these documents contain sensitive information that still require declassification by certain federal agencies. Nonetheless, I have enclosed one document that represents the official Warren Commission explanation of the incident.
2. Also enclosed is the declassified version of the document that you requested, which was cited in the "Final Report of the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities."
3. Furthermore, to answer your question regarding FOIA, you may request any records from the CIA or other federal agency regardless of your citizenship. However, such releases are handled on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, I would like to further pursue and clarify a few of the issues I raised in my original letter to you.

1. You mentioned that you saw a copy of Oswald's letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington and an original (possibly copy) of the Embassy's reply. In addition to what Oswald had on

his person, did you ever see or learn of the existence of the copies received by the Soviet Embassy? If so, do you know if or how these could be obtained?

2. Your response to my question on how you came to learn that Oswald had been studied by Soviet internal counterintelligence indicated that this was an assumption based on your own past experience with that organization. In the period between meeting Oswald and up to the assassination of President Kennedy, was there any attempt by your Mexico City station to confirm this assumption? After you reported to Moscow regarding Oswald's visit did you receive any instructions from headquarters on how to handle him should he return?
3. You stated that it was Yatskov who prepared the report for Moscow on Oswald's visit. Did you ever review the final version of this report? Did it contain any reference to Oswald carrying a weapon? Do you have any recommendations as to who might have a copy of this correspondence or on the procedures for gaining access to such?
4. It is interesting that the decision to deny Marina Prusakova's petition to return to the Soviet Union coincided with Oswald's visit to Mexico and your report on that incident. According to your book, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused Marina's request on October 7, 1963, at which time Oswald's own petition had not yet been received. At this point, had the Ministry already been informed of the nature of the October 3 Special Communication No. 550 on Oswald's visit to Mexico? Do you believe that the Mexico City report had a direct bearing on the decision to refuse Marina's request or had that decision already been made?
5. We are very interested in establishing the nature and scope of U.S. surveillance operations targeting the Soviet Diplomatic compound in the fall of 1963 to ensure that we have adequately reviewed all possible sources of electronic surveillance that could have produced photographic or audio evidence of Oswald's visit. To your knowledge were there any bugs or concealed electronic surveillance devices planted inside the Soviet Embassy or any of the offices in which Oswald was known to have visited? Do you remember if the office in which Oswald met with Kostikov had windows and if so on which side of the building did they face? Do you remember on which side of the building the office faced, i.e. was it on the same side as the front gate or inside facing the courtyard?

Once again, I truly appreciate your willingness to cooperate with us and look forward to receiving your responses to these latest inquiries. I hope the enclosed documents will be of help to you and that we will be able to continue this exchange in the future.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely yours,

Oleg Nechiporenko  
August 21, 1996  
Page 2

T. Jeremy Gunn  
General Counsel  
Assistant Director for Research & Analysis