

Questions Submitted by the Assassination Records Review Board
to the Byelorussian KGB
Regarding Lee Harvey Oswald and Issues Related to
the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

January 21, 1997

Definitions:

“USSR” or “Soviet” means the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, its constituent republics (including Belarus or Byelorussia), and all government entities excepting Soviet Intelligence.

“Soviet Intelligence” includes the KGB, MVD, and GRU and any other components of the Soviet intelligence community.

Identification of Documents Held by KGB:

Please identify each document held in present-day “Oswald file” by originator, type, length, etc. for historical purposes.

When answering questions listed below, please cite the document(s) which support the answer, and whenever possible or appropriate, provide a copy of that document, or a quotation of the relevant passage.

I. Documents, Files, Dossiers, and Contacts Regarding Lee Harvey Oswald

1. What is the date, and purpose, of the first USSR record (of any kind) created regarding Lee Harvey Oswald?
2. What is the date, and purpose, of the first Soviet Intelligence record created regarding Oswald?
3. Did the USSR or Soviet Intelligence have any file or dossier on Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the time that he entered the USSR in 1959? If so, please identify which files were maintained, for what purpose, and please catalogue which documents were created by Soviet Intelligence agencies prior to the time he entered the USSR in 1959.
4. How many different Soviet intelligence agencies or entities maintained files on Lee Harvey Oswald? Please identify these agencies by name, and by the date each file was opened and closed, and explain the purpose for establishing and closing each file.

5. When was Oswald first interviewed by a USSR or Soviet Intelligence official?
6. How many times was Oswald interviewed by a USSR or Soviet Intelligence official?
7. Where are the records of those interviews?

II. Lee Harvey Oswald Prior to His Entry into the USSR

8. Did Oswald visit the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo, Japan in 1957 or 1958?
9. Did Oswald have any contact with a representative of the USSR prior to his arrival in Helsinki in 1959?
10. Did Soviet Intelligence have any knowledge of Oswald prior to his arrival in Helsinki?
11. Did Oswald have any contacts with Soviet intelligence prior to his arrival in Moscow?
12. To the extent that the answer to any of the foregoing was "yes," please explain.
13. Did Soviet Intelligence have advance knowledge of Oswald's desire to enter the USSR? If so, was this foreknowledge obtained from Oswald himself, or from another source?
14. Did the Soviet Consulate in Helsinki have any advance notice of Oswald's arrival and intention to enter the USSR?
15. When, and how, did Oswald first contact the Soviet Consulate in Helsinki?
16. Did Oswald tell the Soviet Consul in Helsinki of his desire to stay in the USSR?
17. Was Oswald's visa application in Helsinki processed more quickly than the normal practice? What was the normal waiting period and how long was Oswald required to wait for his visa to be processed?
18. For what kind of visa did Oswald apply?

19. Why did Oswald receive a six-day tourist visa?
20. Who interviewed Oswald at the Soviet Consulate in Helsinki?
21. Did the Soviet Consul in Helsinki file a report about Oswald? If so, what was reported?
22. What reasons did Oswald give the Soviet Consul for wanting to enter the USSR?
23. Who in the USSR did the Soviet Consul in Helsinki notify of Oswald's visa request and intention to enter the USSR?
24. Was Oswald's entry request the normal procedure followed by all American visitors?
25. Was Oswald's story and/or identity checked in any way?
26. Were visitors to the Soviet Consulate in Helsinki photographed?
27. Was Oswald photographed in Helsinki, and if so, does that photo still exist?
28. Did the Soviet Consulate know Oswald's local address in Helsinki?
29. Did Oswald stay at any hotel other than the Tornio Hotel in Helsinki?
30. Was Oswald surveilled in Helsinki? If so, by whom? If so, what behavior was observed and what conclusions were reached?
31. Did Oswald travel to Sweden following his arrival in Finland?
32. Did Oswald ever visit the Soviet Embassy in Stockholm in 1959? If so, for what purpose? If so, was he photographed? If photographed, does that photo still exist?
33. Were visitors crossing the border from Helsinki into the USSR at the Vainikkala crossing point photographed?
34. Was Oswald photographed at this crossing point? If so, does the photograph still

exist?

III. Lee Harvey Oswald in Moscow in 1959

35. Where and when did Lee Harvey Oswald enter the Soviet Union?

A. Oswald's Visits to the American Embassy in 1959

36. What were the dates and times of Oswald's visits to the U.S. Embassy in 1959?

37. Was Oswald photographed entering or leaving the American Embassy in 1959, and if so, do those photographs exist today?

38. Do any audiotapes, transcripts, or other records exist of conversations between Oswald and any personnel in the U. S. Embassy in 1959?

39. Did Oswald ever go above the ground (reception) floor of the Embassy? If so, to see whom, and why?

40. Did Oswald have any contact with an American intelligence officer at the Embassy? If so, whom, when, and how many times?

B. Oswald's Injury and Hospitalization

41. Who discovered Oswald in his Hotel Berlin room after he slashed his wrist?

42. Who was notified of Oswald's attempt to commit suicide?

43. Who was the elderly American Oswald reported meeting in the hospital?

44. Which employee of the American Embassy visited this elderly American in Botkin Hospital Ward 7?

45. Did the American Embassy know, via its own sources, that Oswald was hospitalized?

46. Was the American Embassy notified by Soviet officials of Oswald's hospitalization? If so, which Soviet official, on what date, and to whom in the U.S. Embassy did he speak?
47. Did the American Embassy ever inquire about Oswald's well-being in the hospital?
48. Who called the hospital from the American Embassy on 24 October to check on Oswald's release?
49. Do any of Oswald's medical records still exist?
50. Was a psychological profile performed on Oswald? If so, what were its conclusions?
51. Why was Oswald transferred to ward 7 on October 23rd?
52. What type of ward was he in prior to October 23rd?
53. Did anyone visit Oswald in the hospital? Who? When?

C. Oswald's Activities in Moscow in 1959

54. Does any chronology exist of Oswald's activities in Moscow in 1959 prior to his departure for Minsk?
55. Was Oswald surveilled in Moscow prior to his departure for Minsk? If so, do these reports still exist?
56. Who packed Oswald's belongings at Hotel Berlin and arranged his move to the Hotel Metropole on October 28?
57. Do any recordings, transcripts, or reports exist of Oswald in either the Hotel Berlin or the Hotel Metropole?

58. Do any recordings, transcripts, or reports exist of Oswald's interviews with the following American journalists:

Aline Mosby on or about Oct. 31 and Nov. 13?

Priscilla Johnson on or about Nov. 16?

59. Was Oswald ever debriefed by any branch of Soviet Intelligence? If so, when? By whom? Do any recordings, transcripts, or reports still exist?

60. What information did Oswald reveal about his military service? Did Oswald reveal information about, or was he asked about the Lockheed U-2 photographic surveillance aircraft?

61. What efforts were made by the Soviet Government to check or confirm Oswald's bona fides?

62. Do any reports on Oswald from the following agencies still exist:

USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs?

OVIR?

63. Does any copy of Oswald's letter to the Supreme Soviet requesting citizenship still exist?

64. Who--which individual or agency--paid Oswald's bills (hotel, food, etc.) between the time his visa expired and he left for Minsk early in January 1960?

65. When did Oswald leave Moscow?

66. Did anyone accompany him to Minsk?

67. Who paid for Oswald's train ticket to Minsk?

IV. Marina Prusakova Oswald (née Marina Nikolaevna Prusakova)

68. Did Soviet Intelligence have any file or dossier on Marina Nikolaevna Prusakova? If so, please describe the nature of the file.

69. Did Marina Nikolaevna have any contacts with Soviet Intelligence prior to the time she met Oswald? Specifically,

Was she a source of information?

Was she an employee, agent, or officer?

70. Was Marina Nikolaevna directed by any facet of Soviet Intelligence to attempt to establish a relationship or contact with American defector Robert Edward Webster in the autumn of 1960 when they resided in the same apartment building in Leningrad?

71. Did Marina Nikolaevna ever report to Soviet Intelligence or the USSR on any matters regarding Oswald?

72. Was Marina Nikolaevna directed by any facet of Soviet Intelligence to establish a relationship with Oswald? If so, for what purpose?

73. Was Marina Nikolaevna directed by any facet of Soviet Intelligence to return to the United States with Oswald? If so, when, by whom, and for what purpose?

74. Did Marina Nikolaevna have any contact with the USSR government or Soviet Intelligence after leaving the USSR? If so, what kind of contact? Dates, and with whom?

75. Were Marina Nikolaevna's personal letters to and from the USSR intercepted by Soviet Intelligence? If so, why, and do records still exist of their contents?

V. Oswald's Activities in Minsk

76. Do any reports on Oswald from the Belorussian Ministry of Foreign Affairs still exist?

77. How proficient was Oswald's spoken Russian: poor, fair, good, very good, or excellent?

78. Did Oswald have a telephone?

79. Did Oswald regularly read any newspapers or periodicals? Which ones?
80. What books did he read?
81. Was Oswald ever a member of a Gun Club in Minsk?
82. Did he go hunting?
83. With what types of weapons did he hunt?
84. What was his proficiency with the weapons used?
85. From whom did Oswald receive letters and other communications:
 - from outside the USSR?
 - from inside the USSR?
86. Were Oswald's letters to or from the USSR intercepted? If so, by whom? For what purpose? Do records of their contents still exist?
87. Were letters between Oswald and the American Embassy in Moscow intercepted?
 - Which
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 - (please
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 - for
 - interce
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 - letters)
 - ? Do
 - copies
 - of their
 - content
 - s still

exist?

88. Please provide copy of December, 1960 letter from Oswald to U.S. Embassy which is mentioned in 7-page report from Chairman of Committee on State Security (V. Semichastny) to Deputy Foreign Minister (V.V. Kuznetsov), dated December 4, 1963.

89. Do surveillance reports from Soviet Intelligence agents in Minsk still exist of:

Oswald at work?

Oswald's social life?

Oswald and Marina Nikolaevna at home?

90. Do any transcripts or reports exist of conversations between Oswald and Marina Nikolaevna at home in their apartment in Minsk?

91. Did Oswald ever travel outside of Minsk? When, where, for what purposes?

92. Could Oswald travel outside of Minsk without permission?

93. Did Oswald receive any performance evaluations in his job at the Byelorussian radio and television factory? Do these records still exist?

94. Did Oswald meet any Americans in Minsk? Any Cubans? If so, who; when; how?

95. Did Oswald ever visit the American Embassy in 1960 and 1961?

96. Did Oswald meet with any American Embassy personnel in 1960 or 1961?

97. Do any audiotapes, transcripts, or records of conversation between Oswald and any American Embassy personnel in 1960 and 1961 exist?

VI. The Departure of Oswald and Marina Nikolaevna Oswald from the USSR in 1962.

98. How many times did Oswald visit the American Embassy in 1962? When; for what purposes; was Marina Nikolaevna with him?
99. Did Oswald have permission to travel to the American Embassy in Moscow in 1962?
100. Do any photographs of Oswald or Marina Nikolaevna still exist?
101. Did Oswald need permission to leave the USSR? From whom?
102. Did Oswald ask for permission to leave the USSR with his wife and child? If so, was his request expedited, or did it receive any special handling?
103. Do any audiotapes, transcripts, or records or conversations between Oswald and any American Embassy personnel in 1962 exist?
104. Why were Marina Nikolaevna and child permitted to leave the USSR with Oswald in 1962? Who granted permission? Was her application to leave expedited, or granted special handling?

VIII. General Questions

105. Did Oswald bring anything with him of intelligence interest when he entered the USSR?
106. Did he provide any information or written documentation on U-2 operations?
107. Did Oswald ever meet, observe, or communicate with Francis Gary Powers while they were both in the USSR?
108. During the period Oswald was in the USSR, should he have had custody of his own passport, or should some agency or entity of the Soviet government have had custody of his passport? When Oswald was in Moscow in 1959, should his passport have been kept by the hotel at which he was registered? Was it permissible under Soviet regulations for the U.S. Embassy to retain custody of his passport?

109. What types of identification papers were issued to Oswald in the USSR?
110. Since Oswald's residency permit granted on December 1, 1959 was valid for only one year, why was he allowed to remain in the USSR beyond December, 1960?
111. Did any Soviet Intelligence organization or any other Eastern Bloc intelligence organization surveil or monitor the activities of Oswald and/or Marina Nikolaevna after their departure from the USSR? If so, do you hold these records?
112. Did any Soviet Intelligence organization or any other Eastern Bloc intelligence organization have any contact with Oswald or Marina Nikolaevna in the United States? If so, do you have these records?
113. Did Oswald have any contact with Cuban nationals while in Minsk?
114. Does Soviet Intelligence have any knowledge of contacts between Lee Harvey Oswald and Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland?
115. Was Oswald ever photographed entering or leaving the Soviet or Cuban embassies in Mexico City?
116. Did Soviet Intelligence come to any conclusions as to whether Oswald had any ties to the U.S. Intelligence Community?

VIII. The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

117. Did any part of Soviet Intelligence conduct any investigation or inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy? Does that report (or those reports) still exist? What were the conclusions?