

1031 - 405

5 December 1966

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Disposition - This document was released with portions deleted. The deleted portions contain information about a specific foreign intelligence method, as well as information identifying Agency components and Agency staff employees. Agency internal filing instructions were also deleted. The deletions were made under the authority of exemptions (b)(1), (b)(2) and (b)(3).

(((SECRET) ((

(EX - 786)
5 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: "American Defectors to the USSR"

1. The attached material was part of a soft file entitled "American Defectors to the USSR", which was set up by (SR/6) (Support) around 1960 and maintained by various (SR) components until ca. 1963. The compilations were derived from a variety of sources, and contain both classified and overt data.
2. In the fall of 1966, the files were turned over to (CI) (Staff.) In most instances, basic information was then abstracted (for the US Defector Machine Program). In all instances in which the material was unique, or represented a valuable collation effort, it has been incorporated into the appropriate 201 file, along with a copy of this memorandum.
3. It is suggested that any dissemination of this data should be coordinated with (SB Division) and with (CI Staff (CI/MRO), in view of the frequently inadequate sourcing and of the fact that disseminations have already been made (through the US Defector) (Machine Program).

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(JLBender)
JLBender

Orig - (CI/MRO)
1 - (RID/FI)
1 - (SB/RMO)
1 - (CI/R&A) JLBender
1 - (CI/R&A/chrono)

Document Number **1031-405**
for FOIA Review on SEP 1976

Input to US Defector
Machine Program
17/1/67 BR

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(SECRET)

(201-289248)
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(CONFIDENTIAL)

OSWALD, Lee Harvey

(201-289248)

1# (270)
(27550)

Date of Birth: 18 October 1939. New Orleans, Louisiana

Date of Defection: October 1959

Education: High school. Always a studious type, read books that were considered "deep".

Military Service:

Joined the Marines at 17. Says he did this because he didn't want to be a burden on his mother. Became a PFC, radar operator; 14 months service Japan and the Philippines. Honorable discharge on 3 September 1959 (dependency discharge).

Background:

Father, an insurance salesman, died before Lee was born. Has a brother who is a salesman at Acme Brick Company, Fort Worth, Texas, and a half brother John Edward Pic age 28, a US Air Force Staff Sergeant stationed in Japan. Mother is currently employed as a supply mother at the Methodist Orphans Home, Waco, Texas. (DBF 49478, 25 May 1960)

According to newspaper article, reasons for his defection were a combination of family poverty, what he considers the plight of US negroes, and the US Marines or American imperialism abroad. At 15 or so he read "Das Kapital" and agreed with its theories. A year before his discharge, he began to prepare for life in the Soviet Union by using a Berlitz grammar to teach himself how to read and write Russian. Never, however, did he consider deserting the Marine Corps.

After discharge from the Marines, Lee visited his mother in Fort Worth for about 3 days, then left for New Orleans where he planned to resume employment with an export-import company for which he had worked prior to enlisting in the Marines. Shortly after he arrived in New Orleans, he sent his mother a note saying that he had booked passage to Europe, that he was doing something he felt he must do. His arrival in Moscow came as a shock to the family. Travel money probably came from that saved while in the Marines. He had never expressed any sympathy for the Soviet Union or Communism. He had been interested in Cuba and South America and his family would have expected him to go there, if anywhere. Mail sent to him since his defection has been addressed to the Hotel Metropole, Moscow. He acknowledged receipt of his mail in 1959, but letters sent in 1960 have been returned to the senders. (DBF 49478)

In November 1959 the Soviets were investigating the possibility of sending Lee to a Soviet higher technical institute. (Wash. Evening Star) May 1960 Mrs. Oswald received a letter from the Albert Schweitzer College

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in Switzerland, and which was addressed to Lee, which said in effect that this college was expecting Lee Oswald on 20 April 1960. After receipt of the letter, Mrs. Oswald planned to write to the college to learn if her son was in actual attendance there. (DBF 49478)

The Soviets neither encouraged nor discouraged Oswald's desire to become a Soviet citizen. The American Embassy wanted him to think it over before hearing his oath renouncing American citizenship. As a result, Oswald is bitter towards the consul there. He has stated that regardless of any material shortcomings he sees while in the USSR, he will never go back to the USA.

Residing Minsk. Desires return USA under certain conditions (drop legal proceedings against him)
Cannot leave Minsk w/o permission. (DBF 82161 3 Jul 61)

Married Marina Nikolaevna Proskova, born July 1941, Malletovsk, Arkhangelsk Obl. Laboratory assist. Sept 61 applied visa come USA with Oswald.

Unless so noted, info is from the Washington Evening Star, 26 Nov. 1959.

Accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy - 22 November 1963
in Dallas, Texas

Shot + killed by Jack Ruby on 25 November 1963 while being moved from Dallas Jail.

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