Interview With Suspect Oswald in Moscow in 1959

The Stuff of Which

The author was Moscow Correspondent for NANA in 1959. A few years before, in 1957, she had been research assistant on The Name for John F. Kennedy, then a senator. She is probably the only foreign reporter ever to have good friends with both the late President and his suspected assassin. She is today a freelance writer on Soviet affairs.

By PRISCILLA JOHNSON

(Cambridge, Mass.—For two years now I have been trying to do this one thing. To dissolve my American citizenship and become a citizen of the Soviet Union.

The time was November, 1959. The place was my room on the third floor of Moscow’s Hotel Moskva. The speaker was Lee Harvey Oswald, poet, suspect in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

With his suit of charcoal gray, flannel, dark tie and tan cashmere sweater, Lee looked and sounded like Lee College with a slight southern drawl. But his life hadn’t been that of a typical college boy.

His father, an insurance selling agent in his hotel room, disappeared before I was just the few below mine as from Reno in Texas and the Hotel. He had no knowledge of the boy’s two friends in Russia and he hadn’t spent any time in New York during his speech word of the language. Fully ten months after he had arrived, he had been hospitalized in the U.S. Marines. He was “Dirtky Min,” a child I detested, he said. “Because I didn’t like one black from our own race and didn’t want to be forever a burden on my mother” and ice cream cone there, he said, remonstrated of as proud.

As we sat in my hotel room, a loud speaker in the Far East. At the age of 15, he added, “I did it,” he said. “Because of my Russian grandmother, my friend asked for a Russian name.”

It rained and then stopped. Lee sat with no other

Lee was asked if the ordinary Americans don’t recommend to take it easy.

As for Lee’s visits to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, they came from between their desire to give Lee time to think it over, and their legal obligation to make sure he understood American citizenship if he wished.

Lee was better at U.S. Consul Henry F. G. Rowley, who, he admitted, asked him when he was at the hotel for the third time on Oct. 31, the only time Lee had been at the Embassy. As a result of the two events, he was going to work in the U.S. Marines. He would let the Soviet government decide legal details.

JOHNSON (PRISCILLA) EXHIBIT NO. 3

The Boston Sunday Globe—November 24, 1959

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