

1

Date 12/24/63

Mrs. THOMAS RAY (NATALIE) was interviewed at her home approximately six miles northeast of Blossom, Texas, but prior to the interview she was advised of the identity of SA DEL D. DRAKE, JR.

Mrs. RAY stated that she had been born in Russia and had married her husband in 1916 in Germany, where she was a displaced person. He was a former GI who had taken a job as a civilian radio operator. She subsequently moved to her present home in Blossom, had become a naturalized American Citizen, and had received her papers in Federal Court, Paris, Texas.

Mrs. RAY stated that in 1962, through mutual friends, Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES E. HARRIS, Georgetown, Texas, (Mrs. HARRIS is Russian born, but now an American Citizen) the RAYS were invited to attend a New Year's celebration in Dallas, Texas, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. DECLAN FORD, 16057 Brookcrest Drive, on December 28, 29, 1962. She said that they met the FORDS in Dallas; went to this party at the FORDS; and to the best of her recollection the following persons attended the party and she wished to explain that she had never met any of these people prior to the party with the exception of the 'HARRIS':

1. EMU JACKSON, apparently very prominent people in Dallas, who apparently were close friends of GEORGE BOUHE, and to whom some of the people went after the party at the FORDS. (The JACKSON home was a very lavish home in a big residential district of Dallas).

2. Mr. and Mrs. FRANK RAY, no relation to Mr. and Mrs. THOMAS RAY. (Mrs. FRANK RAY was Russian born) Mrs. THOMAS RAY stated that this couple was apparently having marital difficulties and was supposed to have obtained a divorce.

3. GEORGE BOUHE, a bachelor, 4740 Homer Street, Apartment O, telephone TA 7-2263, who Mrs. RAY described as a person who was very much interested in all of the Russian people keeping track of one another and giving a helping hand to one another. She said BOUHE was considered

Commission Exhibit No. 1859

on 12/19/63 at Blossom, Texas File # DL 100-10461
by Special Agent DEL D. DRAKE, JR./sdh Date dictated 12/20/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2

DL 100-10461

the leader of the Social group.

4. JOHN and ELAIN HILL - No known address and nothing more known of them.

5. TATIANA BIGGERS, apparently a divorcee, who was from somewhere around Houston, Texas.

6. TEOFIL and ANNA KELLER, 5930 1/2 Lavista Drive, Dallas, Texas, telephone TA 3-2219. Both of these persons were apparently Russian born.

7. LYDIA DYMITRUK - apparently a single person who resided somewhere in Dallas, Texas.

8. A Russian man and a Chinese woman, whose names are unrecalled were at the party and nothing more is known or recalled about them. These persons came together.

9. Mr. and Mrs. DANIEL F. SULLIVAN, Lafayette, Louisiana - a divisional geologist for Continental Oil Company, telephone number 232-3283.

Mrs. RAY estimated that there were from 15 to 25 couples at the party during the evening and the morning hours of December 29, 1962 prior to the time that some of the persons at the party went to the JACKSON residence for a drink. She stated that among the group at the FORD residence were LEE HARVEY OSWALD and his Russian wife, MARINA, who could not speak English. She said that the OSWALDS had been brought to the party by an unknown couple from Fort Worth, Texas, or at least a couple who resided somewhere close to the area where the OSWALDS were residing. She pointed out that most of the persons who were Russian born enjoyed talking to Mrs. OSWALD and that the people who did not understand Russian very well, did not pay too much attention to any of the conversation that took place. She said her husband was one of these persons. However, LEE HARVEY OSWALD was questioned at considerable length by

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1859-Continued

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1859

different persons at the party including herself, and many questions were asked of him about his duty in Russia, his work, and whether he would like to return to Russia sometime in the future. Mrs. RAY explained that OSWALD was very proud of the fact that he spoke Russian so well and that she has stated that he has often asked her and of the language. OSWALD stated that he might want to return to Russia, and again Mrs. RAY said that she was amazed that OSWALD had such an understanding of the Russian Government and of the workings of the Russian Government. He did not exactly say anything that she could recall that sounded like he was advocating the Russian way of life and she was positive he never did say anything about the Kennedy Administration, of American politics, nor did OSWALD mention Cuba or CASTRO. Furthermore the name of JACK REEVE was never mentioned.

Mrs. RAY said that many of the persons tried to talk a little English to Mrs. OSWALD, and OSWALD did not seem to care that his wife attempted to talk English. On many occasions when Mrs. OSWALD was asked a question OSWALD would interpret and answer the question for her, and this made some of the other Russian speaking guests quite angry because they felt that since Mrs. OSWALD was the latest arrival from Russia, she had more or less the "main attraction" at the party. OSWALD drank quite a bit and after some of the guests talked to him briefly, they would apparently get tired of him and would turn their attention to his wife. However, Mrs. RAY said that she did understand that OSWALD to say that she and her husband had had no trouble getting married in Russia, and furthermore, they had no trouble getting permission to leave the country to come to the United States. This was a point that caused several of native Russians to wonder, since they knew that this does not happen in Russia. Mrs. OSWALD also pointed out to Mrs. RAY that in Russia the Russian people were more or less afraid to talk to her husband, because they did not trust him and that since they did not welcome her husband, this was one of his reasons for wanting to come back to the United States.

However, as Mrs. RAY pointed out, OSWALD said several times that he liked Russia and that he "did not go home". She said that both the OSWALDS talked about their friends and that from what OSWALD said, he liked this location and the way things were run in Minsk.

Mrs. RAY recalled that when OSWALD was leaving the party he said that he did not actually want to leave, but that it was necessary since he did not have a car and that he was riding with another couple. (This was apparently the couple who lived somewhere near OSWALDS.) She also recalled that OSWALD was not employed at the time of the party.

She also recalled that OSWALD was introduced to her under a Russian name but she has not been able to recall just what that name was but in the event she recalls it she will advise the FBI later.

After the departure of the OSWALDS, Mrs. RAY related that GEORGE BOWRE said he had tried to help the OSWALDS and had tried to help him take care of his family, but that OSWALD had done nothing to help himself. BOWRE said that when OSWALD would go somewhere to seek employment and was asked where he was last employed, he would reply, "Minsk, Russia", and then never give an explanation, and therefore he would not hear from his application. She said that BOWRE offered an explanation about OSWALD that seemed to be the consensus of opinion of several of the persons who knew him, and that was that OSWALD was a "mental case". However, on Sunday, December 30, 1962, while several of the persons from the party, and some others, all of whom Mrs. RAY cannot identify, were at the NEBLER residence, OSWALD was discussed at considerable length by the Russians at the party. Mrs. RAY said that there was considerable speculation offered about the possibility that OSWALD was possibly a Russian Agent as that would explain why it had been no trouble for the OSWALDS to get married and to leave Russia for the United States.

5
DL 100-10461

But this theory was thrown out because OSWALD was "broke" and had "no connections in the United States, and Russia did not allow their Agents to be in this predicament in the United States. This was not like the Russian Government according to Mrs. RAY.

Mrs. RAY also said that the thought had arisen in her mind that since the Russian people had not apparently accepted OSWALD that he had been given an assignment in the United States by the Russian Government so that when he returned he would be accepted and that would probably explain his reason for wanting to return to Russia. However, Mrs. RAY said that after giving more consideration to OSWALD, she finally decided that he was a mental case, but she cannot get out of her mind that you cannot trust the Russian Government and that they are capable of doing anything.

Mrs. RAY said that she felt sorry for Mrs. OSWALD at the party and since this was the only time she had ever seen her she knew that some of the others felt the same way because several had said that OSWALD really mistreated MARINA and they were trying to help her. Mrs. RAY said that GEORGE BOHNE seemed to have some very definite opinions on the OSWALD family and that she felt that he would be very glad to discuss them with the FBI.

Mrs. RAY finally closed her remarks by saying again that she could not understand how OSWALD and his wife had so little trouble, if any, in leaving Russia, and she knew that several of the other guests felt the same way about it. She also said that she was sorry that she could not recall any more, but explained that this was the only time she had seen these people and that much of the details had been forgotten until she saw OSWALD's picture on television at the time of his arrest in Dallas, Texas and many of the remarks made about him had come back to her. She said the FBI could talk to her at any time it was necessary.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1859—Continued

Commission Exhibit No. 1860

Date December 7, 1963

CHARLES EDWARD HARRIS, JR., 304 E. 12th, Georgetown, Texas, partner, Troy Laundry and Dry Cleaners, 303 W. 6th, Georgetown, Texas, furnished the following information:

Between Christmas and New Years Day, about December 28, 1962, he and his wife attended a party at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. DECLAN FORD at Dallas, Texas. The party was attended by about fifty people, some of whom had an interest or background in Russia - either Russian born or married to a Russian born person. Others present at the party were friends of the FORDS, without any apparent Russian connection or interest. He stated that his wife, Mrs. HARRIS, and Mrs. DECLAN FORD were both Russian born and it was that mutual interest that initiated their acquaintance.

HARRIS recalled that the first night they were in Dallas they attended the party at the FORD residence. During the party he met and conversed with LEE HARVEY OSWALD, whose photograph he observed and recognized. He could not recall the specific topic of their casual conversation and did not recall any comments made by OSWALD concerning political ideology, foreign travel or activity. HARRIS recalled that he judged OSWALD as a "nut" but could not specify the exact basis for this judgment other than that he may have pre-judged OSWALD since he had been informed by Mrs. FORD prior to the party that OSWALD had recently returned from Russia and had married a Russian girl. He stated that he had not met OSWALD before the party and did not see him again afterwards.

HARRIS stated that the day following the party, he and his wife attended an open house or afternoon party in Dallas at the residence of ANNA MELLER, another Russian born acquaintance of Mrs. HARRIS. She stated that to the best of his recollection, neither OSWALD or OSWALD's wife were at the MELLER residence.

HARRIS added that in the evening, the day following the party, he and his wife attended another smaller gathering

On 12/5/63 at Georgetown, Texas File # SA 105-2909
by SA HAROLD LEO FABRIZ/cbl Date dictated 12/6/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.