



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Dallas, Texas

May 6, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

By letter dated April 30, 1964, the President's Commission requested that Miss YAEKO OKUI be interviewed, as witnesses had testified to her presence at a year-end combination Christmas - New Year's Party, December 28 - 30, 1962, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. DECIAN P. FORD, at 14057 Brookcrest Drive, Dallas, Texas, at which party MARINA and LEE HARVEY OSWALD were also in attendance.

On May 5, 1964, Miss YAEKO OKUI, 5646 Loring Drive, Apartment 149, Dallas, Texas, was contacted at her residence for interview.

Miss OKUI advised she was born January 19, 1933, Tokyo, Japan, and resided at the residence of her parents, 843 Yamashita-Cho, Sumoto City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, until her travel to the United States in 1959.

As a matter of background, Miss OKUI advised her father was a practicing attorney in Sumoto City, Japan, until the time of his death approximately four years ago, and that her mother, Mrs. TOKO OKUI, is presently a Certified Public Accountant operating accounting firm in Sumoto City and Wakayama City. Miss OKUI advised she attended Waseda University in Tokyo for three and one-half years, majoring in Business Administration and Economics. She advised she did not receive a degree from this university, but lacks only the submission of a thesis, which she plans to submit upon her return. In addition, Miss OKUI completed seven years of study at the Sogotoku School of Professional Flower Arrangement at Tokyo, for which she received a Teacher's Certificate, allowing her to practice professional flower arrangement teaching throughout the world. Miss OKUI advised she is further proficient in Kato music, which Miss OKUI described as a large, thirteen-string instrument, which is quite popular in Japanese symphony orchestras. Miss

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OKUI stated she, likewise, holds a Teacher's Certificate in this instrument and she, accordingly, has conducted several classes in Kato music during her residence in Dallas.

Miss OKUI advised that in the Spring of 1959, upon completing her studies at the Sogotoku School in Tokyo, she came in contact with a Mr. OZAWA, President of Ozawa & Company, Osaka, Japan, which company is the Japanese agent for Schwabach Perutz & Company, a Dallas corporation dealing in cotton exchange. Miss OKUI expressed a desire to Mr. OZAWA to visit the United States for cultural purposes and, accordingly, Mr. OZAWA arranged for her employment with Mr. GERARDO WEINSTEIN, President of Schwabach Perutz & Company, in his offices in the Cotton Exchange Building, Dallas. Mr. WEINSTEIN agreed to act as Miss OKUI's sponsor for a two-year period during her employment by him in the United States and, accordingly, she arrived in the United States and Dallas, Texas, in the Summer of 1959.

Miss OKUI explained that, due to the diversity between her home land and that of the United States, she requested Mr. WEINSTEIN employ her as a governess in his home in the beginning to allow her to acquaint herself with western world customs, such as buying her groceries and other domestic differences.

Miss OKUI stated she continued her employment with Mr. WEINSTEIN until approximately June 30, 1961, when she obtained a position with Nippon Service, Inc., 11 West 46th Street, New York City, whereupon she took up residence in New York at 22 East 55th Street. Miss OKUI explained that Nippon Service is operated as an American representative for the Tokai-kogyo (phonetic) Department Stores, Japan's largest department store chain. Miss OKUI advised she was employed by Nippon Service under the direct supervision of Mr. MICHIO KUSHI, President of that company, until her return to Dallas, in August, 1962. She advised she returned to Dallas at the request of Mr. KUSHI to act as the southwestern representative for Nippon Service, Inc. She explained her duties were primarily in the public relations field, in that she was required to make numerous contacts with southwestern firms having Japanese connections in the name of her company.

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Miss OKUI stated that, upon her return to Dallas in August, 1962, she took up residence with the family of Mr. & Mrs. WARREN LESLIE, 11415 Hillcrest, Dallas, Texas. Mr. LESLIE, at that time, was Vice President of the Neiman-Marcus Department Store in Dallas. She advised she resided with the LESLIE family until the Spring of 1963, when Mr. & Mrs. LESLIE became separated and she then occupied a guest house to the rear of the residence of Mr. & Mrs. LEE STARR, 5710 Chatham Hill, Dallas, President of Titcher-Gostinger Department Stores, at their invitation. Miss OKUI stated she has lived at her present address for about six months.

Miss OKUI stated further she is no longer employed by Nippon Service, Inc., as she has terminated her position with that firm in preparation for return to her home in Japan. Miss OKUI is scheduled to depart the United States on June 10, 1964, via NKK Lines from San Francisco, California; however, she intends to remain in Dallas until the end of May, 1964.

Miss OKUI related that, in addition to her services with Nippon Service, Inc., in the southwestern area of the United States, she lectures on an average of two to three times a week before ladies' clubs and other similar groups on the art of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement, and in Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. Miss OKUI engages in these teaching lectures as a free-lance speaker, for which she receives a fee.

Miss OKUI stated that, while attending a chamber music concert in Dallas approximately four years ago, she became acquainted with a Mr. LEV ARONSON, who is a widely acclaimed cellist and music teacher in the Dallas area. Miss OKUI characterized Mr. ARONSON as a Latvian by birth, who speaks Russian fluently, and is conversant in several other languages, and it was through Mr. ARONSON she had occasion to become acquainted with Mr. & Mrs. DECLAN FORD. She advised she has attended several functions in the company of Mr. ARONSON as a guest of the FORD family, and she recalls attending a party at the FORD residence, in the company of Mr. ARONSON, in the latter part of December, 1962. Miss OKUI

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advised this party was held at the North Dallas residence of Mr. & Mrs. FORD, 14057 Brookcrest Drive, and that this party was occasioned by the celebration of the Russian holiday season which, she explained, is held a few days following the Christmas season in this country.

Miss OKUI recalled that, upon arrival at this party, she was introduced to a large number of people in attendance, none of whom she can recall now, but she does recall being introduced to an individual, who she now knows was LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and his wife, MARINA, who were also in attendance at the party. Miss OKUI stated she recalls further having a conversation with MARINA OSWALD, through Mr. ARONSON as interpreter, and she received a good deal of attention from the guests at the party, inasmuch as she was the only Oriental in attendance. Miss OKUI recalled she discussed with MARINA OSWALD the fact that she, MARINA, had recently arrived in the United States and had had little or no opportunity to see the country and get acquainted with the people.

Miss OKUI further stated she does recall having a discussion with MARINA's husband, whom she now knows to be LEE HARVEY OSWALD, concerning Ikebana, or flower arrangement, and OSWALD, to the best of her recollection, queried her about how she liked the United States in relation to Japan, insofar as the customs of the people were concerned. She stated OSWALD did not, at any time, broach the subject of politics and, if he had, she would have been inadequate in that regard, as she takes little interest in that subject.

Miss OKUI stated that, if there was some consternation by any of the guests at her discussion with OSWALD, she was not aware of it and, in fact, feels certain Mr. ARONSON was at her side at all times that evening. Miss OKUI stated further that that was the first and last time she had ever met or talked to either LEE HARVEY OSWALD or his wife, MARINA OSWALD, and, in fact, did not, at any time, know his name until OSWALD received notoriety



In Reply, Please Refer to
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

May 18, 1964

Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Lee Harvey Oswald
Internal Security - R - Cuba

As a result of the assassination of President KENNEDY. Miss OKUI also stated that, to the best of her recollection, Mr. ARONSON did not, at least not to her, express any displeasure over her discussion with LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and she stated she feels certain he would have mentioned it had that been true.

Nichio Kushi, 57-77 126th Street, Queens, New York, was contacted by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on May 12, 1964 at the offices of the Nippon Service, Inc., 13 West 46th Street, New York City. Mr. Kushi is the President of this company.

He said he is acquainted with Miss Yaeo Ogui and that she is a young, attractive lady who resides in Dallas, Texas. She is a native of Japan and is a charming person possessing above-average intelligence. He described her as a person who has many friends and acquaintances and one who has an engaging personality.

To the best of his knowledge, Miss Ogui arrived in the United States from Japan in the spring or summer of 1959. She moved to Dallas, Texas and was employed by an unknown firm in Dallas for approximately two years.

Kushi advised that he was formerly a Vice-President of the Takashimaya Department Store, 571 5th Avenue, New York City, which is Japan's largest department store chain. The Nippon Service, Inc. represents several Japanese firms in the United States and his representatives contact numerous firms throughout the United States. He wanted to explain the above since it was in this connection he met Miss Ogui. In the summer of 1961 he traveled to Dallas on business and he met Miss Ogui while contacting firms. He offered employment to her and in the summer of 1961 she came to New York City. She was employed by the Nippon Service, Inc. but assigned to the Takashimaya Department Store for sales training. She worked until the summer of 1962 when she returned to Dallas to serve in the public relations field for his firm. She was required to contact firms in the Southwest with whom his company had business relations. Miss Ogui contacted him about two weeks ago and telephonically advised she was returning to Japan around the last part of May, 1964.

He advised he is not aware that Miss Ogui attended a party in December 1962 which was also attended by Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife, Marina. He said he is not closely associated with