MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT: "Passport and Visa Office"

1. There is no official Soviet office known as the "Passport and Visa Office." However, there is a Visa and Registration Department (Otdel Viz i Registratsii or OVIR) which in 1959 was subordinate to the Chief Directorate of Militia of the All Union Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD).

2. A primary function of OVIR is the registration and control of foreigners in the USSR. OVIR has offices in most of the major cities of the USSR. Some of these offices serve an entire republic or oblast in addition to the city in which they are located. The location of the Moscow OVIR is Kolpachnyy Pereulok 9.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 3124