

TELEGRAM
OUTGOING
Ambassy MOSCOW

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

Change: _____
Classification

SENT TO: Secstate WASHINGTON

Tel with message substantially same as ref tel received at
Embassy for Oswald from brother Robert. Oswald declined pick up
tel at Embassy or have read over phone. Tel forwarded registered
mail Metropole Hotel room 233. Relatives may wish contact directly.

FREERS

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2684

ALR	(Security Classification)	DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
PRIORITY	FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH	
FROM	Ambassy MOSCOW	Commission Exhibit 2685
TO	THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.	November 2, 1959 DATE
REF	Outrel 1304, October 31, 1959	
For Dept. Use Only	ACTION REC'D	DEPT. OTHER
SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP: Leo Harvey OSWALD		

Mr. Leo Harvey OSWALD, an American citizen, appeared at this Embassy October 31, 1959 and stated to Second Secretary Richard E. Snyder that he wishes to renounce his American citizenship and that he had applied to become a citizen of the Soviet Union. He presented to the interviewing officer his passport and the following signed, undated, handwritten statement the original of which is retained by the Embassy (dispellings are as in original):

"I Leo Harvey (cq) Oswald do hereby request that my present citizenship in the United States of America, be revoked.

"I have entered the Soviet Union for the express purpose of applying for citizenship in the Soviet Union, through the means of naturalization.

"My request for citizenship is now pending before the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

"I take these steps for political reasons. My request for the revoking of my American citizenship is made only after the longest and most serious considerations.

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

s/ Leo H. Oswald

Oswald is the bearer of Passport No. 1733282, issued September 10, 1959 (retained at the Embassy). The passport shows that he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 13, 1939, and gives his occupation as "shipping export agent". Oswald gave his last address in the United States as that of his mother at 4935 Collinwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas. A telegram subsequently received at the Embassy for him indicates that a brother, Robert L. Oswald, resides at 7313 Avenueport, Fort Worth, Texas. He stated that he was discharged from the U. S. Marine Corps on September 11, 1959. Highest grade achieved was corporal. Oswald evidently applied for his passport to the Agency at San Francisco while still in service. He stated that he had contemplated the action which he took for about two years before his discharge. He departed from the United States through New Orleans with the intent of traveling to the Soviet Union through northern Europe. He states that he first applied for a Soviet tourist visa in Helsinki on October 11,

Richard E. Snyder mo
REPORTER

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that he applied for Soviet citizenship by letter to the Consulate Soviet on October 16 in Moscow. He stated that he did not mention his intent to remain in the Soviet Union to the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki at the time of his visa application.

Throughout the interview Orskov's manner was aggressive, arrogant, and uncooperative. He appeared to be evasive. He insisted that he did not wish to waste time in discussion or answering questions concerning his "personal" affairs beyond what was directly related to discussing himself as his American citizenship. He was unresponsive to any efforts by the interviewing officer in his attempt, made clear that he sought no advice from the Embassy. He stated that he knew the provisions of U. S. law on loss of citizenship and declined to have them reviewed by the interviewing officer. In short he displayed all the airs of a non-dependent party-liner.

Orskov gave as the "principal reason" for his decision that "I am a Marxist", but declined any further elaboration of his motives. However, other remarks bearing on his attitude were made during the interview. At one point he alluded to himself as being by his mother as a "worker" and stated that he did not intend to have this happen to him. He also referred to himself several times as a "worker", but admitted that he had never held a civilian job, having entered the Marine Corps directly from junior year of high school. (He claimed to have completed high school while in service.) He stated that his service in China and elsewhere "gave him a chance to observe American imperialism." At another point he reacted positively when asked, in connection with his rank in the Marine Corps, whether he felt he should have had a higher grade.

Orskov categorically refused to discuss his family beyond stating that he was not married and that he had a mother in St. Paul. He has obliterated the address written on the inside cover of his passport and steadfastly refused to give any last home address until he was elicited by the "threat" that nothing could be done about his request to reconvert his citizenship without this information. After giving the address noted above, he then confirmed that it was his mother's address. He would not say whether he had informed his mother and admitted any suggestion of concern for her.

Orskov offered the information that he had been a radar operator in the Marine Corps and that he had voluntarily stated to unnamed Soviet officials that as a Soviet citizen he would make known to them such information concerning the Marine Corps and his specialty as he possessed. He intimated that he might know something of special interest.

Orskov is presently residing in non-tourist status at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow awaiting the Soviet response to his application for citizenship. As his Soviet visa and tourist registration expired on October 22, 1959, and have not been renewed, he is presently in a technically illegal residence status with the tacit consent of the Soviet authorities.

For that significance it may have, the foregoing was also the pattern in the Nicholas FLETCHER case (see Despatch 111, September 11, 1959). Having

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evidently concluded, after allowing Petrilli to lounge "illegally" in a local hotel for a month, that he was no asset as a Soviet citizen, the Soviets suddenly invited him to depart, pointing out that he had "overstayed" his visa.

In view of the Petrilli case and other considerations, the Embassy proposes to delay action on Orskov's request to convert an oath of renunciation to the extent dictated by developments and subject to the Department's advice.

Edward L. Freese
 Charge d'Affaires, ad interim