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Action

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Info

FROM: TOKYO

SS

TO: Secretary of State

G

RMR

NO: [REDACTED]

PRIORITY

FOR CHAYES
[REDACTED]

FOLLOWING IS SNYDER STATEMENT:

TO MY BEST RECOLLECTION I HAD TWO PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH OSWALD, ONE ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO EMBASSY TO ANNOUNCE HIS DEFECTION, SECOND A NUMBER OF MONTHS LATER WHEN HE REVISITED EMBASSY TO SOUND OUT POSSIBILITIES RETURNING TO UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION, I CONDUCTED SEVERAL EXCHANGES OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIM. ALL ASPECTS OF ABOVE WERE COVERED IN MY REPORTS TO THE DEPARTMENT. I WAS SOLE OFFICER HANDLING OSWALD CASE. FOLLOWING IS MY ROUGH RECOLLECTION TWO INTERVIEWS:

FIRST INTERVIEW:

(PRECISE DATE ON RECORD IN DEPARTMENT.) OSWALD VISITED EMBASSY ON OWN INITIATIVE AND WAS REFERRED TO ME AS SENIOR CONSULAR OFFICER. (FOLLOWING REMARKS NOT NECESSARILY IN ORDER.) OSWALD STATED IN EFFECT THAT HE WISHED TO GIVE UP HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, THAT HE INTENDED TO BECOME A SOVIET CITIZEN AND TO SERVE SOVIET STATE, THAT HE WAS DOING THIS BECAUSE "I AM A MARXIST", THAT HE CONDEMNED OUR GOVERNMENT AND POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES AS IMPERIALISTIC, THAT HE ADMIRERD THE SYSTEM AND POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND DESIRED TO SERVE THE SOVIET STATE.

HE DELIVERED OVER HIS AMERICAN PASSPORT TO ME, AND SAID THAT

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FROM TOKYO

HE WANTED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO RENOUNCE HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. HE STATED DESIRE TO CONCLUDE MATTER QUICKLY, THAT HE HAD BEEN FOREWARNED I WOULD TRY TALK HIM OUT OF DECISION, THAT HE WANTED NO LECTURES FROM ME, DESIRED ENTER INTO NO DISCUSSION. I NEVERTHELESS ELICITED FOLLOWING FROM HIM.

OSWALD STATED HE HAD JUST COMPLETED TOUR DUTY WITH U.S. MARINE CORPS, I BELIEVE IN OKINAWA OR JAPAN OR BOTH, THAT HIS INTENT TO DEFECT TO THE SOVIET UNION WAS FIRM BEFORE DISCHARGE THAT HE APPLIED FOR AN AMERICAN PASSPORT FOR THIS PURPOSE (ALTHOUGH NOT SO STATED ON HIS APPLICATION) IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL IN US, I BELIEVE SAN FRANCISCO OR LOS ANGELES, FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE. I BELIEVE HE STATED HE PAID BRIEF VISIT TO TEXAS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR SOVIET UNION VIA WESTERN EUROPE.

SOURCE HIS "MARXISM", I BELIEVE HE ATTRIBUTED TO "SONU BOOKS" AND OTHER MATERIALS HE HAD WHILE IN MARINE CORPS AND POSSIBLY BEFORE. OSWALD STATED HIS EYES HAD BEEN OPENED TO THE WAY AMERICA OPPRESSES AND COLONIZES FOREIGN PEOPLES FROM OBSERVING OUR ACTIONS IN OKINAWA. HE REFERRED THROUGH-OUT IN CONDEMNATORY AND CONTEMPTUOUS TONES TO HIS OWN COUNTRY AND IN LAUDATORY TERMS TO SOVIET UNION. I RECALL STRONG IMPRESSION HE USED SIMPLE MARXIST STEREOTYPES WITHOUT SOPHISTICATION OR INDEPENDENT FORMULATION. HE REFERRED, I BELIEVE, TO EARLIER POVERTY AND HARD LIFE OF MOTHER AS PARTIAL RATIONALE FOR ATTITUDES. AT SAME TIME I BELIEVE I HAD IMPRESSION HE HAD LITTLE AFFECTION FOR AND FELT NO PARTICULAR OBLIGATION TOWARD HIS MOTHER.

OSWALD STATED THAT HE WAS AN ELECTRONICS SPECIALIST OR SOMETHING SIMILAR IN MARINES AND THAT HE INTENDED MAKE ALL HIS SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT, IN EFFECT DECLARING INTENTION COMMIT A DISLOYAL ACT. I BELIEVE HE DID NOT CLAIM TO POSSESS KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION OF HIGHLY CLASSIFIED NATURE.

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FROM TOKYO

I DID NOT TAKE OSWALD'S RENUNCIATION ON THAT DAY, GIVING HIM AS REASON, I BELIEVE, THAT EMBASSY THEN CLOSED AND PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED SOME TIME. I TOLD HIM THAT IF THAT HIS INTENT RENUNCIATION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED FOLLOWING DAY OR ANY OTHER TIME HE APPEARED WHEN EMBASSY OPEN. REAL REASON NOT TOLD OSWALD WAS THAT IN MY JUDGMENT COMMON SENSE AND SOUND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ADVISE AGAINST IMMEDIATE ACTION ON REQUESTS FOR RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP WHERE SUCH ACTION BY CONSUL MIGHT IN EFFECT ABET INDIVIDUAL ACTING OUT OF SUDDEN QUIXOTIC OR IRRATIONAL IMPULSE OR OTHER TRANSIENT INFLUENCE TO COMMIT IRREVOCABLE ACT OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE. THIS A PARTICULAR CONSIDERATION MOSCOW WHICH MAGNET FOR CERTAIN DEFECTION-PRONE QUIXOTIC TYPES OF UNCERTAIN MENTALITY AND DOUBTFUL EMOTIONAL STABILITY. FURTHER CONSIDERATION IS POTENTIAL POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WHICH CAN RESULT FROM RENUNCIATION BY SUCH PERSON NOT POSSESSING PERMANENT SOVIET RESIDENT STATUS. (EARLIER PETRULLI CASE ILLUSTRATES POINTS.)

OSWALD DID NOT PRESENT HIMSELF AT THE EMBASSY AGAIN BEFORE DEPARTING FROM MOSCOW FEW DAYS LATER BUT I HAD ONE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIM ADDRESSED TO HOTEL IN MOSCOW WHERE HE STAYED. THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS IN DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS.

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WHILE DIFFICULT ISOLATE REACTION TO AND ESTIMATION OF OSWALD AT THAT TIME FROM FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS ENGENDERED BY HIS SUBSEQUENT ACTS, I BELIEVE CAN ACCURATELY CHARACTERIZE HIS DEMEANOR ON FIRST ENCOUNTER AS ARROGANT AND DEFIANT. HE STRUCK ME AS INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, UNINTELLECTUAL, EXCESSIVELY ASSERTIVE, INTENSE AND HUMORLESS. HE USED NO PROFANITY AND MAINTAINED SELF-CONTROL. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION WAS ONE OF OVERBEARING ARROGANCE AND INSUFFERABLE ADOLESCENCE.

SECOND INTERVIEW:

OSWALD VISITED ME AT EMBASSY A NUMBER OF MONTHS LATER, FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE, TO INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBILITIES AND CONDITIONS HIS RETURN TO UNITED STATES. (COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S FILES.) I BELIEVE THIS INTERVIEW BRIEFER THAN FIRST ONE, LASTING PERHAPS 10 OR 15 MINUTES. ON THIS OCCASION HE DISPLAYED LITTLE OF ARROGANCE, CONTEMPTUOUSNESS AND ALL-AROUND OFFENSIVENESS OF FIRST ENCOUNTER. HE STILL DISPLAYED CHARACTERISTIC COCKSURENESS. HE STATED, IN EFFECT, THAT HE HAD NOT SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED ANY HIS BASIC IDEAS BUT DESIRED TO RETURN TO UNITED STATES. HE STATED WAS WORKING IN A FACTORY IN MINSK WHERE HE HAD BEEN SETTLED BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW, THAT HE HAD ACQUIRED WIFE WHO WAS SOVIET CITIZEN, THAT HE INTENDED SHE ACCOMPANY HIM TO UNITED STATES. WHILE I RECALL FEWER DETAILS THIS INTERVIEW, IT WAS DEVOTED IN PART

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FROM TOKYO

TO QUESTIONING BY ME OF OSWALD IN ATTEMPT TO MAKE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER HE HAD COMMITTED ACT WHICH MIGHT CAUSE LOSS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. I BELIEVE THAT I CONCLUDED IN MY REPORT TO DEPARTMENT ON THIS INTERVIEW THAT I FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT HE HAD ACQUIRED SOVIET CITIZENSHIP OR COMMITTED ANY OF ACTS SPECIFIED BY LAW WHICH CAUSE LOSS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. I BELIEVE THAT OSWALD DEMANDED AS "CONDITION" RETURN TO UNITED STATES ASSURANCE HE WOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED. I BELIEVE I TOLD HIM THAT THOUGH I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE ANY OUTSTANDING CHARGE AGAINST HIM THAT NO SUCH ASSURANCE COULD OR WOULD BE GIVEN, THAT IF HE WERE FOUND TO BE U.S. CITIZEN BY THE TIME HE WAS PREPARED LEAVE SOVIET UNION HE COULD RETURN TO UNITED STATES ON SAME BASIS AS ANY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZEN. I BELIEVE THAT I VERIFIED AT THAT TIME THAT THE SOVIET INTERNAL PASSPORT WHICH HE POSSESSED WAS OF THE TYPE ISSUED TO PERSONS NOT CITIZENS OF THE SOVIET UNION. OSWALD'S DEemeanOR DURING SECOND ENCOUNTER WAS CONSIDERABLY SUBDUED. I DO NOT RECALL THAT HE WAS CONTRITE, BUT HE DID NOT EXHIBIT EARLIER DEFIANCE. I BELIEVE HE GAVE SOME INDICATION DISILLUSIONMENT WITH FACTS OF LIFE IN SOVIET UNION AS THEY HAD APPLIED TO HIM IN PRECEDING MONTHS, AND I BELIEVE HE REMARKED LACONICALLY SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT HIS PRESENCE IN MY OFFICE MUST GIVE ME SOME SATISFACTION. I BELIEVE THAT AT END OF INTERVIEW OSWALD INDICATED THAT HE INTENDED APPLY IN NEAR FUTURE FOR PERMISSION LEAVE SOVIET UNION TO RETURN TO UNITED STATES. I BELIEVE GMDI# HAD SOME FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIM BEFORE I DEPARTED FROM MOSCOW ON TRANSFER IN JULY 1961, AT WHICH TIME, TO BEST KNOWLEDGE, HE STILL RESIDING MINSK.

ABOVE RECOLLECTIONS NECESSARILY SKETCHY. IF CONFLICT IN ANY PARTICULARS WITH FACTS AS REPORTED BY ME AT THE TIME AND NOW IN DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS, THE LATTER IS THE ACCURATE ACCOUNT.

REISCHAUER

JTC

AS RECEIVED, WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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