

THE LEGAL ADVISER  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

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April 24, 1964

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Question No. 5 in Attachment A to your letter of March 23, 1964 requested a memorandum from Mr. John A. McVickar describing to the best of his recollection the specific facts which form the basis for his suspicions that Lee Harvey Oswald had been tutored in connection with his apparent attempts to renounce his American citizenship at the American Embassy in Moscow. In accordance with this request Mr. McVickar prepared the attached memorandum.

As you will see, Mr. McVickar states in paragraph 2 of his memorandum that it would have been significant if Oswald had been issued a "regular visa" and not a "tourist visa." Mr. McVickar did not, however, remember which type of visa Oswald had obtained. In fact, our files indicate that he applied for, and presumably received, a "tourist visa" in Helsinki. It should be noted, however, that Oswald stated that he applied for this visa on October 14, 1961, and was in Moscow on October 16, 1961. It appears, therefore, that he received the visa within a day or two. Usually it takes at least a week for Soviet authorities to process tourist applications, and so the speed with which Oswald received his tourist visa was unusual.

Mr. McVickar also states in paragraph 4 of his memorandum that "Oswald was accepted and sent to Minsk only about seven days (as I recall) after his arrival in Moscow." In fact, our files indicate that he was in Moscow for approximately six weeks prior to his departure for Minsk.

Mr. J. Lee Rankin,  
General Counsel,  
President's Commission on the  
Assassination of President Kennedy,  
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.,  
Washington, D.C.

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Mr. Richard E. Snyder, mentioned in Mr. McVickar's memorandum, also made a statement by telegram dated November 27, 1963, concerning his contacts with Oswald, and a copy of this telegram was furnished to the Commission.

Sincerely,



Abram Chayes

Attachment:

Memorandum of 4/7/64  
from Mr. John A. McVickar.

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT 953—Continued