

came to know Russian peasant life too. In general, the peasants were very poor, often close to starvation. When the hunting party was returning to Minsk, it would often leave what it had shot with the village people because of their lack of food. He spoke of having even left the food he had brought with him from town. In connection with the hunting party, he mentioned that they had only shotguns, for pistols and rifles are prohibited by Russian law.

"Some details of village life: in each hut there was a radio speaker, even in huts where there was no running water or electricity. The speaker was attached to a cord that ran back to a common receiver. Thus, the inhabitants of the hut could never change stations or turn off the radio. They had to listen to everything that came through it, day or night. In connection with radios, he said that there was a very large radio-jamming tower that was larger than anything else in Minsk.

"More about the factories: factory meetings were held which all had to attend. Everyone attended willingly and in a good frame of mind. Things came up for discussion and voting, but no one ever voted no. The meetings were, in a sense, formalities. If anyone did not attend, he would lose his job.

"Mr. Oswald said that he had met his wife at a factory social.

"The workers, he said, were not against him because he was an American. When the U-2 incident was announced over the factory radio system, the workers were very angry with the United States, but not with him, even though he was an American.

"He made the point that he disliked capitalism because its foundation was the exploitation of the poor. He implied, but did not state directly, that he was disappointed in Russia because the full principles of Marxism were not lived up to and the gap between Marxist theory and the Russian practice disillusioned him with Russian communism. He said, 'Capitalism doesn't work, communism doesn't work. In the middle is socialism, and that doesn't work either.'

On Saturday, July 27, 1963, a relative of Lee Oswald, a member of the community at the Jesuit House of Studies, asked Mr. Oswald if he would address the scholastics on his experiences in Russia. The request was not unusual, for the scholastics try from time to time to have either prominent persons or others who have something interesting to relate speak to the scholastics on their experiences. Because Mr. Oswald was an American who had gone to live in Russia and who had returned, obviously for a reason, it was thought that he might be able to communicate the nature of the Russian people themselves better than any official reports might. Those who went to listen to him expected to hear a man who had been disillusioned with Soviet communism and had chosen America to it. What they heard was only partially this.

The major points of Mr. Oswald's address and details from it are given below, probably never in verbatim form, but always true to his intent, at least as he was heard by a number of people.

He worked in a factory in Minsk. When he applied for permission to live in the Soviet Union, the Russian authorities had assigned him to a fairly well advanced area, the Minsk area. He said that this was a common practice: showing foreigners those places of which the Russians can be proudest.

The factory life impressed him with the care it provided for the workers. Dances, social gatherings, sports were all benefits for the factory workers. Mr. Oswald belonged to a factory-sponsored hunting club. He and a group of workers would go into the farm regions around Minsk for hunting trips. They would spend the night in the outlying villages, and thus he came to know Russian peasant life too. In general, the peasants were very poor, close to starvation. When the hunting party was returning to Minsk,

2

Date 12/5/63

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With regard to the factories, factory meetings were held which all had to attend. Everyone attended willingly and in a good frame of mind. Things came up for discussion and voting, but no one ever voted no. The decisions were, in a sense, formalities. If anyone did not attend, he would lose his job.

Mr. Oswald said that he had met his wife at a factory social.

The workers, he said, were not against him because he was an American. When the U-2 incident was announced over the factory radio system, the workers were very angry with the United States, but not with him, even though he was an American.

He raised the points that he disliked capitalism because its foundation was the exploitation of the poor. He was disappointed in Russia because the full principles of Marxism were not lived up to. The gap between Marxist theory and Russian practice disillusioned him with Russian communism. He said, "Capitalism doesn't ^{attract} appeal by law but not actual reality."

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No 2679—Continued

WILLIAM J. VANDEN NEUVEL, President, International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, United States Department of Justice building, Room 4125, Washington, D. C., made available the IRC file on LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

Four pertinent communications contained in this file are herewith set forth verbatim:

"LEE H. OSWALD
Kalinina St. 4, Apt. 24
Minsk, U.S.S.R.
January 26, 1962

"International Rescue Committee
215 Park Ave. South
New York, N. Y.

"Dear Sirs,

"I'd like to request your aid in helping myself and my wife to get resettled in the U.S.A. I am a citizen of the United States. I have lived in the Soviet Union since October 1959. My wife is a Soviet citizen, born in the USSR in 1941.

"She has been classified under the immigration act of the United States and is eligible to enter the U.S.A. as my wife, for permanent residence.

"However, in making the move, it incurs money expenses and inconveniences, this is where your fine organization can help.

"Since July 1961 I and my wife have been working and waiting to get Soviet exit visa's to leave the Soviet Union for the U.S.A. After all this time our visa's have finally been granted, thank God, but our troubles are not finished, only if your organization steps in.

On 12/5/63 at NYC File # NY 105-38431
by SA JOHN D. HURLEY, JR./eah Date dictated 12/5/63

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2680