

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

12-62

ORIG: R. T. WALSH
UNIT: WE/SPO
EXT: 6660
DATE: 29 Nov 63

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 FILE IN CS FILE NO.

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FROM: DIRECTOR
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R.O. #1 - Unit *CZOPS* CITE DIR 85817

CLASSIFICATION REVIEW Note: If for security, cite reasons and coordinate if appropriate.
CONDUCTED ON 24 MAY 1976
IMPDET CL BY 012205

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1. FOLLOWING SYNOPSIS IS FOR COS BACKGROUND BRIEFING AND TO ASSIST IN EVALUATING ANY OPS LEADS GENERATED BY CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS:

A. 9 OCTOBER 1959: ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL BRITISH TRAVEL RECORDS

OSWALD ARRIVED IN SOUTHAMPTON THIS DATE CLAIMING ON HIS LANDING CARD THAT HE HAD NO FIXED ADDRESS BUT PLANNED REMAIN UNITED KINGDOM ONE WEEK FOR VACATION BEFORE GOING "SOME SCHOOL IN SWISSE." (HQS COMMENT: PROBABLY REFERRING ALBERT SCHWEITZER COLLEGE SWITZERLAND WITH WHICH HE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE.)

B. 10 OCTOBER 1959: ACCORDING SAME OFFICIAL BRITISH TRAVEL RECORDS OSWALD

LEFT LONDON THIS DATE BY AIR FOR HELSINKI.

C. OCTOBER 1959: STOCKHOLM NEWSPAPER "DAGENS NYHETER" 25 NOVEMBER 1963

STATES LEE OSWALD PASSED THROUGH SWEDEN OCTOBER 1959. ARTICLE ADDES THAT OSWALD UN-SUCCESSFUL OBTAINING VISA TO USSR IN HELSINKI WHICH RESULTED HIS RETURNING STOCKHOLM. TWO DAYS AFTER HE ARRIVED STOCKHOLM OSWALD TRAVELED DIRECTLY MOSCOW. CONCLUDING SENTENCE ARTICLE STATES "THIS INDICATES THAT RUSSIAN EMBASSY (STOCKHOLM) GAVE HIM A VISA." ACCORDING RELIABLE SOURCE THERE WAS NO RECORD THERE WAS ANY REQUEST FOR USSR VISA PROCESSED THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS FOR OSWALD ANY TIME DURING 1959 AND

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SOURCE INDICATED WAS DIFFICULT EXPLAIN HOW OSWALD MIGHT HAVE RECD VISA IN TWO DAYS WITHOUT GOING THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS. ONLY CONCLUSION WHICH CAN BE DRAWN IS OSWALD MUST HAVE RECD VISA DIRECTLY FROM SOVIET EMBASSY STOCKHOLM WHICH OCCASIONALLY DONE SPECIAL CASES BUT SOURCE HAD NO EVIDENCE CONFIRM THIS ASSUMPTION.

D. 10 TO 15 OCTOBER 1959: ACCORDING VERY RELIABLE BUT EXTREMELY SENSITIVE SOURCE OSWALD STAYED AT TORMI HOTEL HELSINKI 10 TO 11 OCTOBER AND THEN MOVED TO KLAUS KURKI HOTEL WHERE STAYED UNTIL 15 OCTOBER, APPARENTLY WAITING FOR VISA BE ISSUED HIM BY SOVIET CONSULATE HELSINKI. HE TRAVELED USSR BY TRAIN CROSSING AT VAINIKKALA 15 OCTOBER.

E. 13 MAY 1962: ACCORDING TO DUTCH OFFICIAL SOURCE, DUTCH CHARGE MOSCOW ISSUED TRANSIT VISA OSWALD'S WIFE 13 MAY 1962. THEIR RECORDS REVEAL WIFE WAS BORN 17 JULY 1941 INSTEAD OF 19 JULY 1941 AND SEVERODVINSK INSTEAD OF MINSK. THERE NO RECORD HER HAVING ACTUALLY TRANSITED NETHERLANDS.

F. 1962: OFFICIAL BRITISH RECORDS DO NOT REFLECT OSWALD RETURNED UNITED STATES FROM USSR THROUGH UNITED KINGDOM. HOWEVER IF HE WERE MERELY TRANSITING IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY FOR HIM FILL OUT LANDING CARD AND THEREFORE THERE WOULD BE NO RECORD HIS TRAVEL IN OFFICIAL TRAFFIC INDEX.

G. 1963: ACCORDING EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AND RELIABLE SOURCE, ON 23 NOVEMBER MARIA SMETHLAGE, HEAD OF "WERKGROUP INFORMATIE CUBA," TOLD EMPLOYEE

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CUBAN EMBASSY HAGUE SHE WAS SURE SHE HAD MET "THAT MR. LEE IN HAVANA WHO DID THE MURDER." SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS MAN OF VIOLENCE AND ENTIRELY FULL OF HATE AND INDICATED THAT IT POSSIBLE THIS MAN HAD BEEN MISUSED BY A GROUP. SHE SAID SHE HAD WRITTEN "GIBSON" ABOUT BAD IMPRESSION SHE HAD HAD OF THIS LEE. (HQS COMMENT: GIBSON IS FAIRPLAY FOR CUBA REP IN GENEVA) ALMOST THREE HOURS LATER SMETHLAGE AGAIN CONTACTED CUBAN EMBASSY HAGUE AND SAID "MR LEE OF THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" HAD BEEN SLANDERED AND IT WAS ANOTHER PERSON NAMED LEE OSWALD WHO HAD DONE IT. SMETHLAGE SEEMED TO BE GLAD TO HAVE HEARD "CORRECT" VERSION. (HQS COMMENT: MR. LEE MAY BE IDENTICAL VINCENT THEODORE LEE WHO REPLACED RICHARD GIBSON AS HEAD OF FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE IN NEW YORK. ALSO LEE HARVEY OSWALD HAS USED ALIAS O. H. LEE; HOWEVER NO TRACES TRAVEL TO CUBA LOCATED AS OF THIS DATE.

H. ACCORDING RELIABLE INFO SMETHLAGE WAS IN CUBA JANUARY 1963 AND ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DUTCH SOURCE SHE AGAIN TRAVELED CUBA FOR MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS 1963.

END OF MESSAGE

* WE COMMENT - Requested liaison and station traces Lee Harvey Oswald.

Richard Helms
for
Richard Helms DD/P
RELEASING OFFICER

C/WE *[Signature]*
COORDINATING OFFICERS

[Signature]
R. T. Walsh, WE/SPO

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