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Helsinki

Robert S. Anson, author of "They've Killed the President! The Search for the Murderers of John F. Kennedy", offered a critical appraisal of Lee Harvey Oswald's travel through Western Europe prior to his appearance in Moscow on October 16, 1959. Anson <sup>expressed particular concern</sup> ~~expressed particular concern~~ ~~in Helsinki, Finland~~ ~~in Helsinki, Finland~~

<sup>tourist</sup> ~~tourist~~ ~~in Helsinki, Finland~~ The issuance of a Soviet visa to Oswald prior to his entry into the Soviet Union. Anson wrote that

"On Monday, October 12, Oswald went to the Soviet Consulate and applied for a visa. It was granted two days later." <sup>[Anson, p. 155]</sup> Anson concluded:

Oswald also managed to secure a Soviet visa in record time. The CIA told the Commission that under ordinary circumstances obtaining a visa in Finland took one or two weeks; Oswald got his in two days. [Ibid, p. 160] <sup>over</sup>

Thus, the issue has arisen ~~whether~~ ~~whether~~ Oswald's ~~receipt~~ receipt of a Soviet visa prior to his entry into the Soviet Union was an "odd happening" as Anson characterized it; ~~circumstantial evidence~~ ~~circumstantial evidence~~ ~~leading to show that~~ leading to show that

\* Anison was referring to the Warren Commission Report where it is stated:

← ( The Department of State has advised the Commission that it has some information that in 1959 it usually took an American tourist in Helsinki 1 to 2 weeks to obtain a visa,<sup>125</sup> and that it has other information that the normal waiting period during the past 5 years has been a week or less.<sup>126</sup> According to the Department's information, the waiting period has always varied frequently and widely, with one confirmed instance in 1963 of a visa routinely issued in less than 24 hours.<sup>127</sup> The Central Intelligence Agency has indicated that visas during the 1964 tourist season were being granted in about 5 to 7 days.<sup>128</sup>

This information from the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency thus suggests that Oswald's wait for a visa may have been shorter than usual but not beyond the range of possible variation. The prompt issuance of Oswald's visa may have been merely the result of normal procedures, due in part to the fact that the summer rush had ended. It might also mean that Oswald was unusually urgent in his demands that his visa be issued promptly. Oswald himself told officials at the American Embassy in Moscow on October 31, when he appeared to renounce his citizenship, that he had said nothing to the Soviets about defecting until he arrived in Moscow.<sup>129</sup> In any event, the Commission has found nothing in the circumstances of Oswald's entry into the Soviet Union which indicates that he was at the time an agent of the U.S.S.R. (WR p 256)

gradually enter  
the Soviet Union

~~in entering the Soviet Union~~

Oswald had received special assistance ~~in entering the Soviet Union~~

← The Warren Commission should answer the question of Anson's concern ~~regarding Oswald's visit to the Soviet Union~~ <sup>inquired about</sup>

report  
speed  
in which  
arrived  
the country

Oswald's Soviet visa. In a letter dated

May 25, 1964 J. Lee Rankin wrote ~~Rankin~~ <sup>noted</sup> ~~Rankin~~ <sup>inferred</sup> ~~Rankin~~ <sup>inferred</sup> that he had recently

spoken with Abraham Chag, of the State Department who contended that at the time Oswald received his visa to enter Russia from the Soviet Embassy at Helsinki, at least one week ordinarily transpired between <sup>the</sup> time of a tourist's application for a visa and the issuance of the visa. Rankin contended that if Chag's assessment ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> accurate, then Oswald's obtaining his tourist visa in from two to four days might <sup>have</sup> been very significant.

Rankin also <sup>stated</sup> ~~stated~~ that from CIA material supplied to the Warren Commission, the Commission had concluded that Oswald arrived in Helsinki by plane from London <sup>on</sup> October 10, 1959, that Oswald had received his Soviet tourist visa on Wednesday, October 14, 1959, departing by train for the Soviet Union on October 15.

see PR  
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Part III

\* Assuming Oswald arrived in Helsinki on October 10, <sup>under normal conditions the earliest</sup> he would have been able to apply for a Soviet tourist visa would have been the first working day after Oct 10, i.e. October 12

Rankin noted that the Commission was interested in Oswald <sup>James White</sup> did in fact obtain his tourist visa more quickly than was normal <sup>as it was for</sup> the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki ~~that~~ ~~fact~~ ~~operation~~ ~~time~~ ~~fact~~ ~~operation~~ ~~time~~ [Letter by J. Lee Rankin to Richard Helms, DDPY-2676, 25 May 1964]

request for information

The CIA responded to Rankin's ~~interest in the time needed for issuance of a visa~~ <sup>normally</sup> on July 31, 1964 ~~disinform Helms to Rankin~~ <sup>Richard Helms</sup> wrote <sup>to Rankin</sup> that ~~a telephone inquiry to the~~ <sup>the</sup> Soviet Consulate in Helsinki ~~was able to issue a~~ <sup>was able to issue a</sup> transit visa (valid for 24 hours) to U.S. businessmen within five minutes but if a longer stay were intended at least one week was needed to process a visa application and arrange lodging through INTOURIST.

[Richard Helms to J. Lee Rankin, DDPY-3916, 31 July 1964]. A second communication from ~~Richard Helms~~ <sup>Richard Helms</sup> to Rankin dated September 14, 1964 added that during the 1964 tourist season ~~some~~ Soviet Consulates in at least some Western European cities ~~usually~~ issued Soviet tourist visas in from five to seven days. [Letter of R. Helms to J. Lee Rankin, DDPY-4775, 14 September 1964]

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ In an effort to resolve the issue,

The Committee has ~~examined~~ <sup>reviewed</sup> an additional <sup>file</sup> maintained by the CIA which sheds further light on ~~the time required~~ <sup>the circumstances surrounding</sup> ~~the issuance~~ <sup>the issuance</sup> of a Soviet tourist visa ~~to the subject~~. The CIA file ~~subject~~ <sup>concerns</sup> Gregory ~~the~~ Golub, Soviet Consul in Helsinki at the time of Oswald's ~~appearance~~ <sup>visa</sup> was issued ~~to him~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~for~~ a tourist visa. [CIA Doc (OFHA)-3439, 2 July 1959, (OCOA) 3745, 21 April 1959, (OFHA)-4132, 9 October 59]. Golub's file reveals that in addition to his consular activities, he was believed to be an officer of the Soviet KGB. [ (OCOW)-2909, 26 June 1959, (OFHW)-2937, 21 September 1959 ]

→ With regard to the time necessary for issuance of visas to Americans for travel into the Soviet Union, <sup>(from Helsinki)</sup> two CIA dispatchs ~~concerning~~ <sup>concerning</sup> ~~upon CIA's~~ <sup>concerning</sup> ~~visa issuance~~ of Golub are of particular ~~importance~~ <sup>importance</sup>.

The first dispatch records that Golub disclosed (during a luncheon conversation ~~with CIA officer~~) that: "Moscow had given him the authority to give Americans visas without prior approval from Moscow. He [Golub] stated that this would make his job much easier, and as long as he

indent  
→ cite

was crowned the American was "all right" he could give him a visa in a matter of minutes...  
[ (OFHA) 3962, 17 July 1959 ]

The Second CIA Dispatch <sup>dated one day before</sup> <sup>to O'Connell's mission</sup> <sup>to Moscow, 1959</sup> illustrates <sup>the</sup> Golub's <sup>telephone</sup> ~~dispatch~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>ambassadors</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> issue visas without delay. The Dispatch discusses <sup>telephone</sup> <sup>consular</sup> contact between Golub and his counterpart at the American Embassy in Helsinki. In part ~~the~~ the Dispatch discloses:

"... Since that evening [September 4, 1953] Golub has only phoned [the] <sup>consular</sup> ~~mission~~ once and this was on a business matter. Two Americans were in the Soviet Consulate at the time and were applying for Soviet visas thru [sic] Golub. They had previously been in the American consulate inquiring about the possibility of obtaining a Soviet visa in one or two days. [The U.S. Consul] advised them to go directly to Golub and make their request, which they did. Golub phoned [the] U.S. Consul to state that he would give them their visas ~~as~~ as soon as they

\* The Dispatch does not define the meaning given by Golub to the term "all right".

