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at 11/11/58  
12/20/58

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BOX 24  
F 17  
# 1/2

DO NOT REPRODUCE  
RETURN TO CIA  
HELSENKI VISA

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 expressed particular concern over the issuance of a Soviet tourist visa in Helsinki, Finland 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." (Anson, p. 159) 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)\*

\* Anson 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, and that it has other information that the normal waiting period during the past 5 years has been a week or less. 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. The Central Intelligence Agency has indicated (continued)

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*Soviet*  
INTOURIST. *letter* (Richard Helms to J. Lee Rankin, DDP4-3916, 31 July 1964) A second communication from Helms to Rankin dated September 14, 1964 added that during the 1964 tourist season, Soviet Consulates in at least some Western European cities issued Soviet tourist visas in from five to seven days. *letter* (~~Letters~~ of Richard Helms to J. Lee Rankin, DDP4-4775, 14 September 1964)

In an effort to resolve this issue, the Committee has reviewed <sup>a</sup> ~~additional~~ files maintained by the CIA which sheds further light on the circumstances surrounding issuance of Oswald's Soviet tourist visa. The CIA file concerns Gregory Golub, Soviet Consul in Helsinki at the time Oswald was issued his tourist visa. (CIA Docs [OFHA-3939] 2 July 1959, [COCA-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-2907] 26 June 1959 [OFHW-2937] 21 September 1959

Two [ ] dispatches from Helsinki concerning Golub are of particular significance with regard to the time necessary for issuance of visas to Americans for travel into the Soviet Union.

The first dispatch records that Golub disclosed during a luncheon conversation that:

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Thus, based upon these additional two factors: 1) Golub's authority to issue visas to Americans without prior approval from Moscow, and 2) a demonstration of <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ authority, <sup>as reported in a [ ] dispatch,</sup> approximately one month prior to Oswald's appearance at the Soviet Embassy, the Committee has found that the available evidence tends to support the conclusion that <sup>is...</sup> Oswald's tourist visa within two to four days after his appearance at the Soviet Consulate, <sup>was</sup> were somewhat suspect, does not warrant the belief that Oswald's travel into the Soviet Union was assisted by others, particularly the Soviets. However, the possibility of assistance cannot be dismissed due to Golub's probable connection with the KGB and the lack of ~~other~~ substantive information <sup>necessary</sup> ~~available~~ to definitely confirm that Oswald's visa was handled in a manner similar to that of the two American students who ~~had~~ entered the Soviet Union with Golub's assistance via Finland.

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