

AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

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XIII - 15(2)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Embassy MOSCOW

659

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 21, 1961

DATE

REF : Embassy's 585, February 28, 1961

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	I N F O

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

The Embassy received on March 20, 1961 the following letter from Lee Harvey Oswald postmarked Minsk March 5 and Moscow March 17:

"Dear Sirs:

In reply to your recent letter. I find it inconvenient to come to Moscow for the sole purpose of an interview.

In my last letter I believe I stated that I cannot leave the city of Minsk without permission.

I believe there exist in the United States also a law in regards to resident foreigners from Socialist countries, traveling between cities.

I do not think it would be appropriate for me to request to leave Minsk in order to visit the American Embassy. In any event, the granting of permission is a long drawn out affair, and I find that there is a hesitation on the part of local officials to even start the process.

I have no intention of abusing my position here, and I am sure you would not want me to.

I see no reasons for any preliminary inquiries not to be put in the form of a questionnaire and sent to me.

I understand that personal interviews undoubtedly make to work of the Embassy staff lighter, than written correspondence, however in some cases other means must be employed.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lee H. Oswald"

Commission Exhibit No. 940

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Dep. No. 123CCW
From

We have written to Oswald advising him that it is the position of the Soviet Government that they interpose no objection or obstacle to visits to the Embassy by American citizens in the Soviet Union and suggesting that he use the Embassy's letter in applying to the authorities in Minsk for permission to travel to Moscow. Oswald was informed that in order for the Embassy to make a determination of his American citizenship status, a personal interview would be required at which pertinent statements could be taken from him under oath before a consular officer.

For the Ambassador:

Edward L. Freers
Minister Counselor

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