

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(Translation Division)

LS no.0692061-26
JS/BL
Russian

[handwritten: 1077/4367 (?) [illegible]
46

TOP SECRET [illegible]

CIPHER TELEGRAM

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WASHINGTON 54607 9 40 27 XI 63
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Special no. 2005

HIGHEST PRIORITY

Please note Oswald's letter of November 9, the text of which was transmitted to Moscow over the line [?] of nearby neighbors.

This letter was clearly a provocation: it gives the impression we had close ties with Oswald and were using him for some purposes of our own. It was totally unlike any other letters the embassy had previously received from Oswald. Nor had he ever visited our embassy himself. The suspicion that the letter is a forgery is heightened by the fact that it was typed, whereas the other letters the embassy had received from Oswald before were handwritten.

One gets the definite impression that the letter was concocted by those who, judging from everything, are involved in the President's assassination. It is possible that Oswald himself wrote the letter as it was dictated to him, in return for some promises, and then, as we know, he was simply bumped off after his usefulness had ended.

The competent U.S. authorities are undoubtedly aware of this letter, since the embassy's correspondence is under constant surveillance. However, they are not making use of it for the

time being. Nor are they asking the embassy for any information about Oswald himself; perhaps they are waiting for another moment.

The question also arises as to whether there is any connection now between the wait-and-see attitude of the U.S. authorities and the ideas conveyed by Thompson (though he himself may not be aware of this connection) on the desirability of some restraint on the part of the Soviet press and gradually hushing up the entire matter of Kennedy's assassination. Perhaps that is exactly what the federal authorities were inclined to do when they learned all the facts and realized the danger of serious international complications if the interested U.S. groups, including the local authorities in Dallas, continued to fan the hysteria over the "leftist" affiliations of Kennedy's assassin and the exposés we would have to issue in this case.

The main question now is: should we give the U.S. authorities Oswald's last letter if they ask for our consular correspondence with him (there is nothing else in it that could be used to compromise us). After weighing all the pros and cons, we are inclined to pass on this letter as well to the authorities if they request all the correspondence, because if we don't pass it on, the organizers of this entire provocation could use this fact to try casting suspicion on us.

Please confirm [receipt].

Agreed upon with A.I. Mikoyan.

November 26, 1963

A. Dobrynin

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(Translation Division)

LS no. 0692061-28
JS/BL
Russian

Workers of the world, unite!

Communist Party of the Soviet Union. CENTRAL COMMITTEE

TOP SECRET

No. P126/116

To comrades Brezhnev, Podgornyi, Gromyko, and Semichastnyy

Excerpt from Protocol no. 126 of the meeting of the Presidium
of the CC CPSU held on December 10, 1963

Concerning the reply to U.S. Secretary of State Rusk's request for the reasons for the refusal to grant Soviet citizenship to U.S. national Oswald.

Approve the draft of the instructions to the Soviet ambassador in Washington regarding this matter (appended).

SECRETARY OF THE CC

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Re: Paragraph 116 of Protocol no. 126

Top Secret

WASHINGTON

THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR

2054. Concerning Rusk's request to tell him the reasons why the Soviet authorities refused to grant Oswald Soviet citizenship, you can report the following to Rusk orally:

"The Constitution of the USSR and Soviet laws grant specific rights to Soviet citizens and impose corresponding obligations on them. In reviewing an application for Soviet citizenship, the competent authorities of the Soviet Union consider first of all the extent to which the applicant can fulfill the obligations of a citizen of the USSR and enjoy the rights granted to him. The reasons why a particular individual seeks Soviet citizenship are also taken into account.

The competent Soviet authorities who reviewed Oswald's application did not find sufficient grounds to conclude that he met the requirements set forth in the Constitution and laws of the USSR for Soviet citizens. Oswald's motives for submitting the application were likewise unclear. The fact that Oswald criticized the country of which he is a citizen could not, of course, be a decisive factor in the review of his application.

For the aforesaid reasons, Oswald's application for Soviet citizenship was rejected."

Notify us by telegraph when instructions have been carried out.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(Translation Division)

LS no. 0692061-29
JS/PH
Russian

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CIPHER TELEGRAM

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Special no. 2054-2056

URGENT

Today I met Rusk and handed him photocopies of the embassy's correspondence with Oswald, commenting appropriately on his final letter of November 9 (your special no. 1328).

Rusk thanked me for turning over these documents, saying he greatly appreciated the Soviet side's initiative in this matter. In addition, Rusk inquired if he could make this correspondence available to the newly formed presidential special commission chaired by Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren. * I replied that we left it totally to his discretion whether to present this material to anyone, as we were sure he would properly appreciate our step and would act appropriately.

Rusk thanked me again for the photocopies. It was evident that Rusk was quite unprepared for this step on our part, while at the same time (judging from his general behavior) he was pleased with this development.

[Translator's note: This sentence, like several other sentences and paragraphs in what follows, is marked with a link in the left margin.]

Rusk asked me, if I could, to find out in Moscow the reasons why the Soviet authorities had refused to grant Soviet citizenship to Oswald when he was still living in the Soviet Union. I promised to forward his request. Please instruct me how to answer Rusk.

Rusk noted in conclusion that he hoped for the Soviet side's cooperation if the Warren Commission had any requests or queries relating to its investigation. He, Rusk, would then want to turn to me confidentially.

Rusk also said he wanted to use our meeting to touch on certain other matters unofficially.

1. Rusk informed me that yesterday President Johnson had received FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] director Halaby and instructed him to meet with Soviet representatives for a final settlement of technical issues related to a future agreement on the establishment of a New York-Moscow air route. The U.S. embassy in Moscow has been instructed to consult the MFA of the USSR on this matter. Halaby would be ready to come to Moscow December 10-11.

Rusk then noted that this entire idea belonged to him, since, apart from the issue itself, he thought it important to show that business was continuing under the new president in the same manner as under J. Kennedy. President Johnson agreed with this, according to Rusk.

2. Rusk then mentioned his meetings with A.A. Gromyko in New York and Washington at which he had raised the issue of the military budget. "I think," he told me, "that soon, in about 10-15 days, I will be able to tell you [the ambassador] in strict confidence the amount the U.S. government plans to appropriate for the military in next year's fiscal budget. It will not be larger than the present amount and might even be less." Rusk then wondered when we would be considering the budget. He did not pose the question directly, but one could gather that he would also like to get some information on this subject from us as well. [Tr. note: The bracketed explanation is in the original.]

Rusk emphasized several times that his remarks did not mean the U.S. government was now concluding some agreement with the Soviet government on this matter. It could not do this for the reasons that had already been set forth in talks with A.A. Gromyko. Nor could it guarantee that the figures Rusk intends to provide us soon in a strictly unofficial form would not be changed later in some way by the U.S. Congress itself, which constitutionally and traditionally has its rights. But he, Rusk, is continuing to think about the usefulness of such an unofficial exchange of opinions "on mutual intentions."

3. Having mentioned his remarks in the talks with A.A. Gromyko "on the subversive activities of Castro's government," Rusk asked me to convey to him in this connection, in a strictly personal, unofficial form, that it had been precisely determined that the three tons of weapons seized the other day in Venezuela had come from Cuba. (Rusk said: "We checked out in particular the numbers of the rifles purchased by Castro some time ago in Belgium and seized now in Venezuela.")

"I am saying this," Rusk noted, "not as any representation or comment. Nor can this be the subject of an official talk between us, since Castro's government exercises authority in its own country and it is unlikely that it consults with anyone when it decides to send weapons to one Latin American country or another, although the Chinese (Rusk added parenthetically, as it were) might be mixed up in this." Rusk said in conclusion: "I by no means wish to exaggerate the significance of this incident in Venezuela, it's not that great, but I would simply like to bring this last example to the attention of Mr. Gromyko, with whom I spoke about this matter before. Of course, I do not expect any answer in this matter, and please don't mention in official conversations and talks what I said today."

I told Rusk that the latest events in Venezuela were well known, and if one were to speak frankly, they clearly showed the world once more that the Betancourt regime had no popular support, especially now, on the eve of elections; therefore, would it not be logical to expect (and judging from everything, this is indeed the case) that this regime is prepared to stage any provocation, even an international one, just to remain in power?

Rusk smiled but said nothing more.

A fair amount of time was devoted to discussing the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. However, Rusk did not say anything new compared to his previous statements on this subject. I reiterated our position.

Rusk noted in the course of the conversation that the upcoming NATO meeting in December of this year would be "routine in nature" and, judging from everything, issues relating to the establishment of NATO nuclear forces would basically not be discussed there (Rusk interjected that these issues "are generally discussed through other channels," but did not amplify on this theme).

Rusk said there were no plans yet for a trip to the upcoming NATO meeting by the new president, Johnson, but it has not been ruled out completely. "Evidently," Rusk said as though thinking out loud, "Johnson may instead travel to Europe this spring to meet with a number of heads of states that are U.S. allies. But for the time being, no meetings have been planned specifically between the new president and other heads of state, although there is agreement in principle about such meetings with some of them."

In conclusion, Rusk asked me again to consider our meeting unofficial, as if held "in a family atmosphere." The entire conversation was between the two of us; nobody else was in the office.

Rusk looks very tired; his eyes are red from sleeplessness ("I'm sleeping 3-4 hours a day right now," he remarked), but he himself is animated, in an obviously good mood, and gives the appearance of a person secure about his present position in spite of the change in presidents.

November 30, 1963

A. Dobrynin

REPORT: No. 1328 (outgoing no. 33600) of November 29, 1963. Comrade Gromyko said the embassy could give Rusk photocopies of the embassy's correspondence with Oswald, including his letter of November 9, but without waiting for a request by the U.S. authorities.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(Translation Division)

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Russian

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Workers of the world, unite!

Communist Party of the Soviet Union. **CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

TOP SECRET

No. P140/XLI

To comrades Brezhnev, Podgorny, Kosygin, Mikoyan, Gromyko, Kuznetsov, and Semichastnyy

Excerpt from Protocol no. 140 of the meeting of the Presidium
of the CC CPSU held on April 23, 1964

Concerning the transmission to the U.S. State Department of photocopies of documents relating to the stay of U.S. national Oswald in the Soviet Union.

1. Adopt the proposal of the MFA of the USSR and the KGB of the Council of Ministers of the USSR to transmit to the U.S. State Department photocopies of certain documents relating to the stay of U.S. national Lee Harvey Oswald in the Soviet Union in 1959-1962, in accordance with the appended list (appendix 1).

2. Approve the draft of the instructions to the Soviet ambassador in Washington for a conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Rusk (appendix 2).

SECRETARY OF THE CC

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(Translation Division)

LS no.0692061-31

JS/BL

Russian

SecretAppendix 1

LIST

of Documents Relating to Lee H. Oswald's Stay in the Soviet Union,
Photocopies of Which are to be Turned over to the U.S. State Department

Materials on Lee H. Oswald's Residency and Employment in the Soviet Union

1. Lee H. Oswald's application of December 29, 1959, to the Division of Visas and Registration of the UVD [Office of Internal Affairs] of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Municipal Council for a residency permit.
2. A declaration by Lee H. Oswald, dated January 5, 1960, that the legal status of the stateless person had been explained to him.
3. Lee H. Oswald's applications, dated January 4, 1961, and January 4, 1962, to the Police Administration of Minsk for extension of his residency permit.
4. A declaration by Lee H. Oswald, dated January 6, 1962, that he had received a residency permit.
5. An application and curriculum vitae written by Lee H. Oswald in connection with his taking a job at the Minsk Radio Factory; a card issued to the new employee, certifying that he had passed a medical examination and received instructions on safety procedures. Dated January 11, 1960.
6. A report from Lee H. Oswald's place of employment, dated July 15, 1961.
7. A report from Lee H. Oswald's place of residence, dated July 15, 1961.
8. A job evaluation for Lee H. Oswald from his employer, the Minsk Radio Factory, dated December 11, 1961.
9. An excerpt from Lee Oswald's workbook issued at the Minsk Radio Factory.

Materials Relating to the Departure of Lee H. Oswald and His Wife M. Oswald from the USSR

1. An application by Lee H. Oswald to the OVIR [Division of Visas and Registration] of the Police Administration of the Minsk Municipal Executive Committee for a visa to leave the USSR, dated July 15, 1961.
2. An application by Marina Oswald to the OVIR of the Police Administration of the Byelorussian SSR for permission for her husband, Lee H. Oswald, to leave the USSR, dated July 18, 1961.
3. Marina Oswald's application for a visa to leave the USSR, dated August 21, 1961.
4. Lee H. Oswald's commitment to provide financial support for his wife, written by him in connection with his departure for the U.S., dated July 17, 1961.

Materials of a Medical Nature

1. A history of Lee H. Oswald's illness, from the psychosomatic and surgical departments of the Botkin Hospital (Moscow); a history of illness and the medical record of Oswald's out-patient treatment from the Second Clinical Hospital in Minsk.
2. Marina Oswald's medical file and out-patient treatment record from Minsk

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(Translation Division)

LS no.0692061-32
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Russian

Re: Paragraph XLI of Protocol no. 140

Secret

Appendix 2

WASHINGTON

THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR

485. Visit U.S. Secretary of State Rusk and give him a note that reads as follows:

"The Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents his compliments to the Department of State of the United States of America and, referring to its note of March 24 of this year, has the honor to transmit, in connection with the request by the U.S. Government, photocopies of the following documents relating to the stay of U.S. national Lee Harvey Oswald in the Soviet Union in the 1959-1962 period:

Materials on Lee H. Oswald's Residency and Employment in the Soviet Union

1. Lee H. Oswald's application of December 29, 1959, to the Division of Visas and Registration of the UVD [Office of Internal Affairs] of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Municipal Council for a residency permit.
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2. Marina Oswald's medical file and out-patient treatment record from Minsk

Notify us by telegraph when this has been done.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(Translation Division)

LS no. 0692061-33
JS/YS
Russian

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CIPHER TELEGRAM

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TOP SECRET
REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

WASHINGTON 14153 9 40 25 III 64
14171 14154

Special no. 485-487

URGENT

Today I visited Rusk at his request.

Rusk said that the U.S. government greatly appreciated the assistance the Soviet government had provided at its own initiative in the Oswald case by instructing the embassy to turn over copies of the correspondence between its consular section and Oswald and his wife in the 1962-1963 period. The U.S. government would be grateful if the Soviet government made available any additional information it has about Oswald during his stay in the Soviet Union from 1959 through 1962. The Warren Commission investigating the Oswald case has expressed in this connection a number of desiderata, which are appended to the note from the Secretary of State.

When handing over this note along with a copy of the letter from the chairman of the Warren Commission, Rusk stressed that this request was confidential and that they realized its somewhat unusual nature, but they were guided by the gesture of good will manifested at the very beginning by the Soviet government. Of course, Rusk added, we are referring only to information in the hands of the Soviet authorities, because in certain areas (as the U.S. side understands) the Soviet side may not have it. Rusk noted as if in passing that during the Warren Commission's preliminary work a lot of data had come to light indicating Oswald's great mental instability

[Translator's note: in the Russian text, it appears that the word "psychological" has been overtyped by the word "mental."], and that the same data might be available in the Soviet Union when Oswald lived there.

He went on to remark that for example, an American tourist who visited Oswald in the Soviet Union (in 1959, it seems) found him half-conscious in his room ("either he was drunk or having a fit, we don't know for sure," Rusk said, "since it was very fragmentary information I received a good deal later.")

In conclusion, Rusk re-emphasized the confidential nature of the request to the Soviet government and expressed the hope that it would correctly understand the reasons for this request.

(The text of the note and a copy of Warren's letter will be sent in a separate telegram.)

Before my departure, Rusk inquired if there was any new information from Moscow regarding the release of the U.S. airmen. I replied in the negative. As he was taking leave, Rusk noted in a half-jocular tone that the day before, when he was speaking at a congressional hearing (on a different issue altogether), one congressman, a member of that commission, called Rusk an "appeaser" for his Sunday press conference. I answered Rusk in the same vein that apparently said gentleman from Congress had not been particularly convinced by Rusk's presentation of the facts of the matter. Rusk just replied that during the press conference he had made every effort to stop the press from sensationalizing this incident.

On the way back from Rusk, my escort Mr. Guthrey [?], head of the State Department's Soviet desk, called my attention to the "good" editorial in the Washington Post about the incident with the PB-66 aircraft, intimating that the State Department had a hand in the affair (the article was transmitted over the TASS line). However, Guthrey [?] refrained from any further remarks about the matter.

The embassy is now getting a fairly large number of telephone calls from newspapers and agencies concerning the exact date of the airmen's release. On the whole, the tenor of the commentaries and responses in the U.S. in regard to Rusk's statement about the Soviet side's intention to return the airmen is generally favorable to us.

March 24, 1964

A. Dobrynin

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(Translation Division)

LS no.0692061-34
JS/
Russian

[Translator's note: The Russian rendering of the letter from Ambassador Foy Kohler to N.S. Khrushchev, dated September 28, 1964, conveys in all substantive respects the meaning of the original English text. The handwriting at the bottom of the Russian translation is partially illegible. The words "Comrade N.S. Khrushchev" and the date "9-30-64" are legible. The translation was done by the Office of Translations of the MFA of the USSR on September 29, 1964.]