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YATZ-27221

9 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Discussion with Warren Commission Staff Member

REFERENCE: Letter from J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the President's Commission, to Mr. Richard Helms dated 3 July 1964

→ O SR/CA discussion with SLAWSON 9 July on questions of Soviet policy towards Russian wives of Americans and visa procedures.

1. With the approval of C/SR and the DDP, I met with Mr. W. David Slawson of the staff of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy at 1400 hours on this date in the Commission's offices at 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss apparent inconsistencies in material provided the Commission by CIA and by the Department of State which were called to our attention in a letter from the General Counsel of the Commission to Mr. Helms, dated 3 July 1964.

2. By way of introduction, Mr. Slawson said that in the portion of the Commission's report that he was writing, he would have to deal with the question of whether or not the OSWALDs' departure from the USSR - and the circumstances (i.e. timing) of that departure - were unusual or suspicious in any way. He expressed his belief that they probably were not and cited Soviet relaxation in such matters in the post-Stalin era. However, he wanted to be sure in his own mind that our information was not in conflict with that which the Commission had received from State since all of that information would remain in the records of the Commission.

3. After stating my belief that there was no real disagreement or inconsistency between the information from CIA and that from State, I expressed the view that the matter resolved itself into three questions:

/a. Do the Soviet

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a. Do the Soviet authorities normally permit Soviet citizens married to foreign nationals to emigrate from the Soviet Union to the homelands of their spouses?

b. Do they normally permit such Soviet citizens to accompany (i.e. depart simultaneously with) their spouses from the Soviet Union?

c. How long does it take such Soviet citizens to get Soviet exit visas for such a purpose (time lapse from application to granting of visas)?

4. Concerning the first two questions (3a and 3b above) I pointed out that we had addressed ourselves mainly to the question of Soviet citizens being allowed to accompany their spouses abroad while State dealt only with the larger question of Soviets married to foreigners being allowed to emigrate without reference to whether or not they left simultaneously with or at another time from their spouses. Mr. Slawson commented that this explanation was most helpful and he reread what both we and State had said in that light.

5. By way of further explanation, I said that the statements in paragraph 6 of our memorandum of 6 April 1964 concerning Soviets being permitted to accompany their foreign spouses abroad were based on a review of 26 cases, of which 10 involved Americans. In only four of these cases did a Soviet wife leave the USSR in the company of her foreign husband; in 14 of the cases the foreign spouse departed alone; and in the remaining seven cases insufficient details are known to permit us to categorize them. I added that although State's information began by citing the issuance of 724 quota and non-quota immigrant visas by the American Embassy in Moscow during the period FY 1954 to December 1963, it did not indicate how many of these visas were for Soviet citizens who had married U.S. nationals. Actually State provided detailed information for only sixteen cases and did not indicate in many of these whether or not the Soviet was permitted to accompany the foreign spouse.

/6. In response to

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6. In response to a question from Mr. Slawson I stated that most of the 26 cases upon which we based our statements involved foreign students, exchange teachers and other relatively transient persons, and while a number of cases have certain points in common, they bear little similarity to the OSWALD case in that none involved a defector who married prior to repatriating. I noted that paragraph 6 of our 6 April 1964 memorandum to the Commission had pointed this out. Mr. Slawson indicated that he was now satisfied on this matter.

7. Concerning the length of time taken by Soviet authorities to process exit visas for Soviet citizens married to foreign nationals (question 3c above), I stated that, in my opinion, the information provided by State (in the third enclosure to Mr. Meeker's letter) substantially corresponded to the views expressed in paragraphs 6 and 7 of our memorandum to the Commission dated 6 April 1964. Mr. Slawson asked if it would be possible to elaborate paragraph 7 of our memorandum of 6 April by providing a statistical breakdown of the cases on which our statements were based. I indicated that this could be done.

8. At this point Mr. Slawson stated that as a result of our discussion he felt that the question of possible inconsistencies had been resolved. However, he asked that we send a brief written reply to the Commission's letter of 3 July 1964 embodying the substance of what I had said concerning the basis for statements included in our 6 April 1964 memorandum. [This would include the gist of the draft reply to the Commission which I showed to C/SR on 8 July plus an elaboration of our statements concerning Soviet visa applications.]

9. Mr. Slawson indicated that he would be sending parts of his report dealing with the Soviet intelligence services to CIA for checking as to their accuracy. He did not say when this would occur.

10. After concluding the meeting with Mr. Slawson, I read Volume 52 of the transcript of testimony before the Commission. This included the reinterview of Marina OSWALD.

Lec H. Wigren
C/SR/CI/Research

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Tamara insisted on church wedding as well as registration.

recently. She hopes "take up her work again" when Swedish good enough.

He was recruited by us. Station suspects RIS involvement in this marriage.

She supposedly daughter of purged Sov officer, Komsomol member (party), imp job in TASS. See more info in file - OSSA-11545 15.6.62: Her close friends

family were on her side about wanting marry for dinner, but casual acquaintances gave her hard time. Sov police "surprisingly nice to her", she said. Husband had not had too much difficulty getting her out: he got out faster than the other 2 - one took 4 mo, one not out yet.

He considers her processing fine ~~fine~~ ^{fine} altho they married last July. Her processing could not begin until he ready to leave USSR, so he left Jan 62 when scholarship ended. Her proc then began, & he was told mid-Feb that he could come get her. Plans delayed. She carries "lifetime Sov external passport." They have called at Sov Emb re "possibility of returning to USSR." Told that he could go as tourist any time but that it would take 4 mo to process for her to enter USSR w/ plans to leave

See 201-234750 on Tamara S.KUNGUROVA.

On his second trip to the USSR in January 1959, Philip Robert NIELSON, REDS KIN agent was given an INTERIST interpreter/guide named Tamara Stepanovna KUNGUROVA. A romance developed between them and NIELSON became determined to marry her, which he finally did in the spring of 1962. His family did everything in their power to discourage this romance and John Hanes of the State Department received letter from NIELSON's father re affair. Not seeking help but advice on what to do.

NIELSON later received letter from his father in fall 1960 giving in details the contents of a conversation father had had with John Hanes of State. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Hanes stated that:

- a. All American-Soviet marriages had turned out to be unsuccessful.
- b. The Soviets never let one of their nationals out of the country under such circumstances unless the person had been recruited as a spy.
- c. The Soviets will probably not given NIELSON a visa (he tried unsuccessfully all summer and fall 1960 and in 1961 to get Sov visa).