

Assassination Records Review Board Final Determination Notification

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After consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, the Review Board determined that the attached record from the House Select Committee on Assassinations may now be opened in full -- as referenced in the Federal Register notice for the Board's 12/13/95 meeting.

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ORIGINAL

HEARINGS

Before The

John F. Kennedy Subcommittee

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 30, 1978

Washington, D.C.

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C O N T E N T S

TESTIMONY OF:

Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko

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ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY- - -
Tuesday, May 30, 1978
- - -**CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

U. S. House of Representatives,
John F. Kenney Subcommittee of
Select Committee on Assassination,
Washington, D. C.

Deposition of

YURI IVANOVICH NOSENKO

called for examination by staff counsel for the subcommittee,
pursuant to notice, in the offices of the Central Intelligence
Agency, Langley, Virginia, beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m.,
before Lula S. Hook, a Notary Public in and for the Fairfax,
County, Virginia, when were present on behalf of the respective
parties:

For the Committee

Kenneth Klein, Assistant Deputy Chief Counsel

Johanna Smith, Researcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

TESTIMONY OF YURI IVANOVICH NOSENKO

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Mr. Klein. My Name is Kenneth Klein, and I am the Assistant Deputy Chief Counsel for the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations, and with me from the Committee is Johanna Smith. She is a Researcher on our Committee.

As you can see, there is a stenographer taking down everything being said. The time is 10:15 and the date is May 30, 1978, and we are present at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Once more, for the record, would you state your full name?

Mr. Nosenko. My full name is Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko.

Mr. Klein. Mr. Nosenko, I have spoken to you in the past, is that correct?

Mr. Nosenko. Right.

Mr. Klein. And the last time I spoke to you was last Friday, is that correct?

Mr. Nosenko. Absolutely right, 27th of May.

Mr. Klein. And I had spoken to you one time prior to that, is that correct?

Mr. Nosenko. Right, in May.

Mr. Klein. Has anybody spoken to you since I spoke to you on Friday about our interview on the Lee Harvey Oswald aspect of our investigation?

1 Mr. Nosenko. No sir, nobody has spoken to me.

2 Mr. Klein. What I would like you to do at this time is
3 to start at the beginning, the first time you ever heard or
4 had anything to do with Lee Harvey Oswald. Start at this
5 point and work your way through telling us everything you saw
6 or heard having to do with Oswald while you were in Russia.

7 You might also start off by telling us what your position
8 was in Russia when you first heard of Oswald. I would like you
9 to try to speak slowly so the stenographer can get it down and
10 to be as specific as you can about the facts that you relate,
11 but if there are any facts that you don't remember, or you are
12 not sure of, then please tell us you don't remember, if that
13 is the case, or you are not sure.

14 Could you please begin?

15 Mr. Nosenko. It was in the fall of 1959. I was working
16 in the 7th Department of the Second Chief Directorate of the
17 KGB, being Deputy Chief of the First Section, which is respon-
18 sible for American, British and Canadian tourists. To me had
19 come a senior case officer, Major Georgiy Ivanovich Rastrusin.
20 He was responsible for counterintelligence work against
21 intourists. He had come with a question that an American
22 tourist, Lee Harvey Oswald, made a request to intourist to
23 stay in the Soviet Union.

24 I asked him who is responsible for him and what we know
25 about him and what kind of materials we have, and he answered

1 me that nobody is working against him personally, only him.
2 He found materials, it was several pages only. There was a
3 questionnaire, which every tourist before coming fills out in
4 his country where he applies for a visa, or for the Soviet
5 Embassy through a tourist firm.

6 There were two checkups but I do not know by what officer,
7 one of the officers of the 7th Department, one to check also
8 the archives center, the archives of the KGB, and the other
9 checkup through the archives of the intelligence service. They
10 have different archives.

11 Both these checkups in archives showed no existing
12 materials on Lee Harvy Oswald. He was in the Soviet Union the
13 first time.

14 Besides that, there was information received from an
15 interpreter who worked with Oswald, about him. There was a
16 short note made from the intourist page, what kind of tour
17 Oswald had, how many days he will be in the Soviet Union, and
18 also there was written by hand, by Major Rastrusin, a summary
19 concerning the question which he found out in intourist
20 concerning the question of his stay, he wished to stay in the
21 Soviet Union.

22 Here it is necessary for me to clarify that KGB working
23 against foreign tourists doesn't have capability to, not every-
24 one, but even 50 percent, in work against tourists, and which
25 orders of the leaders of the KGB -- KGB is picking up the

1 interesting targets, who are the interesting targets.

2 Any foreign tourist, let's say, an American tourist, if
3 he had any connection with the intelligence community, he will
4 be very interesting target. This tourist will be given priority
5 of interest by the KGB. Anyone who is working, any tourist
6 working for the Federal Government of the United States is a
7 very interesting target. Anyone who specializes in any field
8 on the Soviet Union or Russia, in general, I mean teach, a
9 professor, assistant professor, who is specializing on Russia,
10 history, language, law or whatever it will be, it is interest-
11 ing for the KGB, because KGB considers that they can be
12 connected with the intelligence community in the United States.

13 Students, young people who are studying in any field of
14 Russia, Russian language, Russian history, Russian economy,
15 is a very interesting target, because there is a chance that
16 they in the future will be working for the Federal Government
17 or maybe for the intelligence community.

18 Further, any tourist who has any Russian roots, his
19 parents, grandparents or the tourist himself was born in the
20 Soviet Union, in Russia, because it gives the possibility to
21 the KGB to check all his relatives who are in Russia and to
22 view their work on this basis, having in mind approachment.
23 This is the category of people on whom KGB is paying attention.

24 Further, any tourist who appears in the Soviet Union the
25 second time automatically becomes a suspicious person and

1 becomes an interesting target. This is the category of people
2 against whom in general KGB pays attention.

3 Oswald didn't belong to this category of people. That is
4 why he wasn't paid attention. Besides that, what I said above,
5 there is also an important thing that in this period of time,
6 in 1959, the summer-fall, there was going on in the Soviet
7 Union, in Moscow, an American exhibition at Sokolniki Park.
8 Why? Because almost 95 percent of all who were on the American
9 side working for this exhibition knew the Russian language and
10 the KGB was covering these American personnel very tight. It
11 means not one department was responsible for the American
12 exhibition but every outfit of the whole counterintelligence
13 of the Second Directorate was working also against the exhibi-
14 tion. It means the 7th Department responsible for tourists
15 was also working against American exhibition.

16 After I looked at the materials which Major Rastrusin
17 showed me, what the 7th Department First Section had on Oswald,
18 in my eyes he wasn't an interesting target, targets about whom
19 I was speaking before.

20 I went with Rastrusin to the Chief of the Section of the
21 7th Department to whom we reported this material, and then we
22 went further to the Chief of the 7th Department, who looked and
23 there was nothing interesting.

24 The second thing, the KGB is not very fond to deal with
25 defectors. If it will be a defector from the intelligence

1 community, a diplomat, an interesting person, they will be
 2 interested, but with a person they don't see any interest in,
 3 then they are not burning with wish to deal with him.

4 And it was made decision by the Chief of the Department,
 5 in the presence of the Chief of the Section, me and Major
 6 Rastrusin, to answer, to give an answer to intourist to ask
 7 intourist to tell Oswald that in accordance with all rules and
 8 regulations Intourist is not dealing with people who want
 9 to stay, Intourist is dealing only with tourists, that is
 10 intourist will recommend him that in accordance with Soviet
 11 procedure, he must go back home, in the United States, where he
 12 must, if he wants to come to live in Soviet Union, he must
 13 visit Soviet Embassy, to go in Consular Department, where he
 14 will talk with people about his wish, and if he would still
 15 persist and wants to go ahead, it will be taken normal pro-
 16 cedures.

17 It was a soft brush, the way you can call it. After that
 18 -- this is what I remember -- after that, the next day or a
 19 day and a half, the same Major Rastrusin reports that trouble
 20 took place with Oswald. Oswald cut his wrist and was taken to
 21 the hospital. How it happened, I asked, and he told me that
 22 an interpreter has come to him, to take him on a tour, after
 23 it was announced to him before, about they must go in accordance
 24 with Soviet procedures. Next day, it was --

25 Mr. Klein. After it was announced that he could not stay?

1 Mr. Nosenko. He couldn't stay and intourist has no dealing
2 with this question.

3 An interpreter has come and was waiting for him 20 minutes,
4 half an hour, he is not appearing. She asked the hotel
5 personnel, Hotel Berlin, in Moscow, to check, did Oswald leave
6 the hotel, again, because in accordance with Soviet procedures
7 in hotel any foreigner when leaving the hotel leaves key on the
8 floor where he is living. It wasn't on the floor. It means
9 he was in the room. And the interpreter was concerned and
10 asked the manager, the administration of the hotel, to check
11 it out, and went with them. They broke the door and in the
12 room they found Oswald was lying with cut wrist.

13 He was immediately given a call to ambulance, for ambulance,
14 and he was taken to hospital, Oswald, Botkin Hospital, where
15 he was given transfusion plus put stitches on his wrist.

16 And there in the hospital Oswald again stated that if they,
17 the Soviets, will not allow me to stay, then I will kill myself.

18 Again I immediately went to Chief of Section, to Chief of
19 Department and reported what was going on, what happened, and
20 here the office of Chief of Department decided to check him
21 through psychiatrist, and it was decided that he will be checked
22 by psychiatrist from the Botkin Hospital, and to invite another
23 one. This task was given to Major Rastrusin to arrange it.
24 In this way both psychiatrists check him independently and each
25 one will write what they found.

1 Later, I cannot tell you, I do not remember how long it
 2 took, I have seen both reports of psychiatrists, and they cited
 3 the major thing, both mentioned that Oswald was mentally
 4 unstable, both.

5 After that, by Chief of Department, and I do not know, I
 6 cannot tell you, did he report higher to Chief of Second
 7 Directorate? There is possibility that he reported. And it was
 8 made decision -- who made this decision I cannot tell you,
 9 Chief of Department or above Chief Second Chief of Directorate.
 10 Maybe second Chief of Directorate or his Deputy, reporting to
 11 the Chairman of the KGB. I do not know. It was made decision
 12 that taken into the account that it can happen that he will
 13 kill himself, it is necessary to take measures to report to the
 14 Soviet Government.

15 Here there is one point again which I want to clarify, I
 16 think it is important, before I go further. This was 1959, the
 17 fall, Khrushchev only returned not long ago from the trip to the
 18 United States, the first trip where he met the United States
 19 President, and had meeting in Camp David, and started a little
 20 bit warm American and Soviet relations appeared, so-called, the
 21 Camp David, Spirit of Camp David.

22 Ahead, it must be in 1960, in May, must be next meeting of
 23 leaders of Big Four countries, United States, Great Britain and
 24 France and Soviet Union, as of these four countries in Paris.

25 I am clarifying these to show the importance why the

1 government took decision to allow Oswald to stay. And in case
2 this was in KGB, in 7th Department, it means it was opinion of
3 Second Chief of Directorate that in case of Oswald will kill
4 himself, it will hurt Soviet foreign policy and the warmer
5 relations with the United States because the trip of Khrushchev
6 received from the Soviet point of view very good publicity, and
7 here, he kill himself, commit suicide, it can be a West reaction,
8 be sharp, can be said that KGB killed him, or whatever it is,
9 and can in any way hurt the Soviet policy, foreign policy.

10 KGB recommended to Intourist, which in those days was a
11 part of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Intourist as one of the
12 trade organizations, KGB recommended Intourist to report it to
13 their Minister of Foreign Affairs, who must in turn report to
14 the Soviet Government.

15 I cannot tell you did KGB also report it to the Soviet
16 Union, the leaders of the KGB, I do not know, but there is
17 possibility also the Chairman reported also this question.

18 The Soviet Government was reporting that year KGB doesn't
19 have any interest in Oswald, but such situation existed, he
20 tried to commit suicide, he was saved, and he wants to stay
21 in Soviet Union and if he were not allowed to stay he will kill
22 himself.

23 The decision was of the Soviet Government. It means it
24 was reported to Khrushchev to allow him to stay on the basis of
25 those clarifications what I told.

1 The warmer Soviet-American relations, the next trip coming
 2 of Khrushchev to Paris, France, and on the level of the Soviet
 3 Government, was decided where he will be living, I cannot tell
 4 you. Again, there is the possibility the Chairman of KGB was
 5 asked, but it was decided that processing of Oswald staying
 6 will pass through Red Cross and it was decision that he will be
 7 staying in Soviet Union, that he will go to live in Minsk, and
 8 Red Cross was giving him \$700 rubles pension for retirement,
 9 for living.

10 It was decided that he will be working in Minsk, and later,
 11 later after that, I only know one thing, that by the end of
 12 this 1959, about December, another officer of 7th Department,
 13 senior case officer, Major Kim Georgievich Krupnov was ordered
 14 to prepare a paper. First of all, he was ordered to start a
 15 file, after decision of Soviet Union that he will stay in the
 16 Soviet Union, on him was created a file register in the center
 17 archives of KGB, and after that Krupnov was ordered to prepare
 18 a paper which will accompany the file, send to KGB of Belorussian
 19 Republic, that in Minsk, this paper I have seen, and in this
 20 was told what kind of work to give Oswald in Minsk.

21 It was told to cover him by agents in place of his living,
 22 and in place of his work. It was also mentioned to control him,
 23 his all correspondence, meaning all letters coming to him or
 24 going from him would be under control of KGB. To keep his
 25 telephone conversations under control. Periodically, to keep

1 under surveillance, and under no conditions to make any
2 approachments to him.

3 Mr. Klein. When you say keep his telephone under control,
4 do you mean tap his telephone?

5 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

6 Mr. Klein. And when you say periodical surveillance, what
7 does that mean?

8 Mr. Nosenko. It doesn't mean all the time. Let's say,
9 they put one for a month and a half, then make a break. A
10 month or month and a half and then again from time to time.

11 Mr. Klein. From time to time somebody will follow him
12 around?

13 Mr. Nosenko. Yes sir. It means surveillance will be
14 watching whom he visits, who are his friends, how he spends
15 days.

16 Mr. Klein. They will literally follow him from place to
17 place?

18 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

19 From the point of view of KGB, any foreign defector or
20 suspected case or an operative game, which is led by intelli-
21 gence community of the West, and also Oswald was suspected in
22 connection with American intelligence. That is why decision
23 to watch him, having in mind that maybe there is a possibility
24 that he is so-called agent sleeper.

25 That is all I know on this period of time, because from

1 January 1960 I was working again in American Department against
2 American Embassy in Moscow. I returned back, was transferred
3 in 7th Department, in 1961, where I worked up to my defection
4 in February 1964.

5 In 1963, at this period of time, I was Deputy Chief of
6 7th Department, Second Chief Directorate. To me has come Chief
7 of Section of 7th Department, Lt. Col. Vladimir Alekseev, and
8 told me that he visited Deputy Chief of Service Number 2 of
9 the Intelligence Service of the KGB, Colonel Turalin, who had
10 given him telephone call and asked him to come. And Colonel
11 Turalin had given him a cable which he received from KGB
12 recently in Mexico City, and he showed to me this cable was
13 indicating that an American, Lee Harvey Oswald, visited Soviet
14 Consulate Department of Soviet Embassy in Mexico City, where
15 he applied for a visa to come to the Soviet Union.

16 Mr. Klein. He showed you that cable?

17 Mr. Nosenko. Yes sir, I have seen it. And at the end of
18 the resident of the KGB in Mexico City was asking what is your
19 opinion, what must be our actions.

20 This is the first time I heard about Oswald after I left
21 7th Department at end of '59, beginning 1960. I didn't know
22 that he left Russia. I told Alekseev, I didn't know he left.
23 How come? He told me that he married a Soviet woman and then
24 he left. And I went with Alekseev with the cable to Chief of
25 Department and showed him. I said, this is Oswald whom we had

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1 trouble with in '59. I didn't know he left Russia and they
2 married; that he married. Is this the same nut. And surely
3 the Chief of Department, he said no, we don't want to hear
4 about him more. Enough we had problems with him. Go back to
5 Turalin, ask Alekseev in Intelligence Service and tell him that
6 we won't want to have with him anything, again it is
7 necessary, it means we will be given a soft brush, that in
8 cable sent by Intelligence Service to KGB resident in Mexico
9 City will be said that we don't have any interest, but he will
10 recommend him to go back into the United States to visit
11 Soviet Embassy Consulate Department and to start all these
12 procedures, as usually they are done. This was given answer,
13 and this is what I know by this time.

14 Soon, I do not remember how long it was the period, there
15 was in two hours an announcement by Soviet Union of an assassi-
16 nation of President Kennedy, and a little bit later, the same
17 day, it come news that, again announcement on Soviet radio, that
18 President Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald, and here
19 started the turmoil in Second Chief Directorate immediately.

20 I receive a call from the Chief of the Second Chief
21 Directorate, General Gribanov, who told me immediately to
22 contact KGB in Minsk and ask them to send immediately all
23 materials on Oswald, in Moscow, to the KGB from Minsk and not
24 even to wait a commercial plane, but it is necessary to get it
25 immediately, to use the military plane.

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1 Besides that Gribanov asked me also check, the Chiefs, did they
2 in any way approach him, did they contact Oswald maybe before
3 he left. I talked with several officers but in main I talked
4 and received information from Chief of Department, which was
5 responsible also for foreigners and tourists, Colonel Gruzdev.
6 He told me, we couldn't do anything, you indicated Oswald was
7 sending file, nobody talked with him, nobody. I said did
8 any officer was maybe contacted, no one was in contact, because
9 we didn't have any right and there was indication what to do.

10 Mr. Klein. Is the man whom you were talking to on the
11 phone was the Chief of Department in Minsk?

12 Mr. Nosenko. Right. Hour and half, two hours, the file
13 was in the KGB, the officer from Minsk arrived with big suitcase,
14 and I do not remember, or it was black suitcase or is two
15 suitcases or one, arrived on military airplane, bomber plane
16 from Minsk, in Moscow was met by officer of KGB from 7th
17 Department Second Chief Directorate, delivered to the KGB
18 Headquarters in Moscow and in 7th Department, and we together,
19 Chief of 7th Department, I, Chief of American Section, officer
20 Krupnov, about four or five officers, and officer of KGB who
21 arrived from plane, in the office of Chief of Section, Second
22 Chief Directorate started to look at files. It was seven or
23 eight volumes.

24 Mr. Klein. You just made a mark with your hand about three
25 or four inches.

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Mr. Nosenko. About three, three and a half inches.

Mr. Klein. Is that the size of one volume or of all the volumes?

Mr. Nosenko. Each volume.

But usually, in the file the main material, the most important materials are in the first volume, and in the first section. Each file is subdivided in four sections, the first section it always is the most important material.

Mr. Klein. Let me just stop you one moment.

Mr. Nosenko. What kind of materials? The opening of file decision to open file, all plans of work, all summaries on the whole file, results of the whole file, are in first section. And when file is closed, the work stopped surely, when Oswald left Minsk, the work was stopped, the file was closed, there was written the summary on the whole file in accordance with whatever materials they had.

And, we were looking in this first part, officers were checking over page by page, looking but, the Chief of Department was looking in first part, checking if maybe there is anything indicating that somebody from KGB was in contact with Oswald.

There wasn't any contact, there wasn't any indication on any contact of KGB with Oswald. I mean, not even recruitment, or attempt, but contact of KGB officer with Oswald.

It was about hour, maybe hour and a half, we spent. We understood before we started we must prepare a resume on file

1 on several pages, it must not be long, two, not maybe four pages
 2 which reported to the Chief of Second Chief Directorate in
 3 who in turn must return to the Chairman and Chairman must go
 4 above to Khrushchev.

5 But we were interrupted because to us has come Colonel
 6 Matveev, a Deputy Chief of First Department, of the Second
 7 Chief Directorate, the most prestigious Department, American
 8 Department, and told us that Griбанov changes his opinion, they
 9 are taking all file on Oswald, this First American Department
 10 and they are ordered to prepare a resume, which will go to the
 11 leader of the KGB and Soviet Government. Files were taken
 12 from us.

13 The last thing what I know more, is a couple of days later,
 14 Griбанov himself I know was talking about KGB of Minsk, leaders
 15 of the First American Department was talking about KGB of
 16 Minsk but Griбанov sent group of officers of Second Chief
 17 Directorate, I do not know exactly the number, four, five
 18 officers, to Minsk for investigation. Among this group of
 19 officers was one of my friends, Vladimir Krivosheev, who
 20 personally talked with a few, with several workers of the plant
 21 where Oswald was working, those who belonging to the hunting
 22 circle who went on hunting with Oswald, and he was surprised,
 23 he told me to find out that Oswald was a very poor shot, that
 24 there had been several times, I cannot tell you -- three or
 25 four, and he couldn't even kill a rabbit and the workers who

1 went with him had given him a rabbit to return with something.

2 This is all what I heard and what I have seen, what I
3 know concerning Lee Harvey Oswald. I never was leading case
4 officer, because in the book of Mr. Stein, whose book appeared
5 on Oswald, was mentioned that I was case officer, I wasn't case
6 officer, -- Epstein.

7 Mr. Klein. I am going to ask you now a number of ques-
8 tions based on what you have said, and apologize in advance
9 if I am jumping around a bit but my thoughts are scattered.

10 Did Oswald make a written application for Soviet citizen-
11 ship, to your knowledge?

12 Mr. Nosenko. I haven't seen it. He must, but I haven't
13 seen it.

14 Mr. Klein. But he must have made a written application?

15 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

16 Mr. Klein. You told us that when Oswald slashed his wrist
17 he went to the hospital?

18 Mr. Nosenko. Yes sir.

19 Mr. Klein. And while in the hospital, there were psychi-
20 atric tests taken, two doctors, is that correct?

21 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

22 Mr. Klein. And were these psychiatric tests, the KGB
23 ordered these tests to be taken?

24 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

25 Mr. Klein. That was to get a psychiatric evaluation of

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Oswald for the KGB?

Mr. Nosenko. Right.

Mr. Klein. Did you actually read the two reports?

Mr. Nosenko. Yes, I have seen them, and read them.

Mr. Klein. And can you remember anything about them?

Mr. Nosenko. No. I remember the main point of them both, and they coincided in their opinion Oswald was mentally unstable.

Mr. Klein. Now, before you received these reports, by the two psychiatrists, was there any reason to believe that Oswald was crazy or not normal, before those reports?

Mr. Nosenko. Before reports, his cutting wrist?

Mr. Klein. Before he cut his wrists.

Mr. Nosenko. Before this event, before he cut wrist, no, there wasn't anything known to KGB.

Mr. Klein. So before he cut his wrist, there was no reason to believe that he was crazy or not normal?

Mr. Nosenko. Even such thought didn't come before. It wasn't any thought that he is crazy.

Mr. Klein. Only when he cut his wrist, they started to think he might be crazy?

Mr. Nosenko. Right. And particularly, especially, after being in hospital, being saved and he said if they will not allow me to stay, I will kill myself.

Mr. Klein. When Lee Harvey Oswald made his first request, prior to cutting his wrist, his request to stay in Russia, were

1 you the one who made the decision not to allow him to stay, or
2 was it the Chief of the Department?

3 Mr. Nosenko. On the level of the Chief of 7th Department,
4 Second Directorate, was made decision.

5 Mr. Klein. Did you make a recommendation?

6 Mr. Nosenko. We showed him both I and Rastrusin and Chief
7 of Section, reporting Chief of the Department said, we don't
8 see anything particularly interesting about him.

9 Mr. Klein. He was rejected because there was nothing
10 interesting in the file?

11 Mr. Nosenko. Yes.

12 Mr. Klein. And at the time that decision was made, had
13 Lee Harvey Oswald ever been personally interviewed by a KGB
14 officer?

15 Mr. Nosenko. No.

16 Mr. Klein. And why was it that no KGB officer interviewed
17 him before making that decision?

18 Mr. Nosenko. In the KGB, this is of 7th Department,
19 Second Chief Directorate, he didn't present an interest from
20 operative point of view.

21 Mr. Klein. When the decision was made, not to allow him
22 to stay in the Soviet Union, was it known that Lee Harvey Oswald
23 had been a Marine, when he was in the United States?

24 Mr. Nosenko. Yes, it was known.

25 Mr. Klein. You knew that he had been a Marine?

1 Mr. Nosenko. Yes, it was known that he was served in the
2 Marines.

3 Mr. Klein. How did you learn that he had served in the
4 Marines?

5 Mr. Nosenko. I cannot tell you from whom, how it was
6 known, the fact that he had served, when the decision was made
7 that he served in the Marine Corps.

8 Mr. Klein. But it was still felt he was not of interest
9 to the KGB?

10 Mr. Nosenko. No.

11 Mr. Klein. Was it known that he had been a radar operator
12 at the time you denied his request, this is before he slashed
13 his wrist?

14 Mr. Nosenko. This I cannot tell you, I do not know.

15 Mr. Klein. When the decision was made not to allow Lee
16 Harvey Oswald to stay in the Soviet Union was the First Chief
17 Department consulted before making that decision?

18 Mr. Nosenko. YOU mean intelligence chief, the First Chief
19 Directorate?

20 Mr. Klein. Yes, the First Chief Directorate, were they
21 consulted before Lee Harvey Oswald was told he could not stay
22 in the Soviet Union?

(?)

23 Mr. Nosenko. In my presence in the office of the Chief of
24 Department, there wasn't any contact, any conversation, with
25 First Chief of Directorate.

1 Mr. Klein. And was it after the meeting which you did
2 attend that it was decided to give Oswald the brush off, as
3 you called it?

4 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

5 Mr. Klein. So would it have been possible for them to have
6 asked the First Chief Directorate, since the decision was made,
7 at that meeting?

8 Mr. Nosenko. If the KGB had any information on him, that
9 he has some interest and knowledge or worked for Federal
10 Government or something interesting particularly about him,
11 in this case KGB will conduct, contact Chief of First Director-
12 ate, when they in their mind decided that maybe there is possi-
13 bility to get something from him. In this case, they were
14 no contacts.

15 Mr. Klein. In the case when you went and had that meeting
16 with your boss, after receiving Oswald's request, and the key
17 decision was made to give him as you called it the brush off?

18 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

19 Mr. Klein. Nobody contacted the First Chief Directorate?

20 Mr. Nosenko. There are no rules and regulations concerning
21 this question. The boss in the work against any foreigner.
22 tourist, diplomat, whoever it will be in the territory of the
23 Soviet Union was the task of Second Chief of Directorate.
24 It is not necessary to ask opinion of Intelligence Service, it
25 is two different outfits, each one is working differently. And

1 each one has different files, different ways, different methods.

2 Mr. Klein. So the Second Chief Directorate could reject
3 Oswald's --

4 Mr. Nosenko. Without asking any questions, any permission
5 or information of Intelligence Service.

6 Mr. Klein. Just because Oswald was an uninteresting
7 person?

8 Mr. Nosenko. That is all.

9 Mr. Klein. You told us that it was later decided to send
10 Oswald to Minsk, is that correct?

11 Mr. Nosenko. It was made decision at the time, when
12 government decided that he was, would stay, it was same time,
13 by the same decision, that he will be living in Minsk, working
14 in Minsk.

15 Mr. Klein. You told us about the report that was sent to
16 KGB in Minsk about what to do with Oswald?

17 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

18 Mr. Klein. And that report said there would be periodic
19 physical surveillance, is that one of the things included?

20 Mr. Nosenko. Among other things was also periodical
21 surveillance.

22 Mr. Klein. Physical surveillance?

23 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

24 Mr. Klein. And it had technical surveillance and in that
25 they would tap his phone?

1 Mr. Nosenko. Tap his phone, control his correspondence,
2 surround him through agents and informants in place of his
3 living, in place of his working.

4 Mr. Klein. It would include physical and technical sur-
5 veillance?

6 Mr. Nosenko. Yes sir.

7 Mr. Klein. Did they ever put a microphone in his apartment?

8 Mr. Nosenko. I do not know whether they put or not, it
9 can be.

10 Mr. Klein. Did you have an opportunity at any time to
11 read the KGB file pertaining to Marina Oswald?

12 Mr. Nosenko. No, I didn't read it. I didn't read the
13 file. But when we were checking file, when file arrived from
14 Minsk, in Moscow in '63, there were materials on her, materials
15 on Maria were in file on Oswald.

16 Mr. Klein. And did the file indicate the KGB was familiar
17 with Marina's background, her character?

18 Mr. Nosenko. Yes.

19 Mr. Klein. Did they have this information on Marina before
20 Oswald married her or did it come after he married her?

21 Mr. Nosenko. I think when they applied maybe application
22 made application to marry. The KGB surely was interested
23 starting to check her out, check up where she was living, where
24 she was studying, where she was working or tried to get infor-
25 mation on the character, what she is, what she is thinking,

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1 what are the image.

2 Mr. Klein. Due to the surveillance that you told us they
3 had on Oswald in Minsk, was the KGB aware that he was seeing
4 Marina before they applied for marriage?

5 Mr. Nosenko. I cannot tell you I have seen it, I am
6 simply sure if he was in this period of time, when the first time
7 he had seen Marina, surely surveillance -- if surveillance on
8 him it would be registered in the form.

9 By the way, let me clarify, anyone of the Soviets who had
10 a contact with Oswald, even maybe one meeting, everyone will
11 be checked by KGB of Minsk. And there will be some material on
12 this person, Soviet person who had a contact with Oswald. Those
13 who became known to KGB, of course.

14 Mr. Klein. So the first time he saw Marina the KGB would
15 have --

16 Mr. Nosenko. If he was under surveillance, immediately
17 KGB will find out about it and will start to check her. It is
18 a routine procedure. Anyone had a contact with a foreigner,
19 in this case, with Oswald, that it became known to the KGB,
20 immediately, the officer responsible for the file will start
21 to check him in the archives of the KGB trying to find where
22 he is living, where he is working, to find as much as possible
23 materials on this person. Did he have previously any contacts
24 with foreigners? Does he know language? What is the image
25 or what is his standing in the Soviet society, from the point

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1 of view of his political moves?

2 Mr. Klein. So, the KGB would have begun investigating
3 Marina as soon as the technical or physical surveillance picked
4 her up?

5 Mr. Nosenko. As anyone else who had a contact became
6 known to the KGB will be checked in the same way.

7 Mr. Klein. Now, if Marina called him on the phone, then
8 they would know about her, is that right?

9 Mr. Nosenko. Yes sir.

10 Mr. Klein. Once the KGB would have learned that Marina
11 was a friend of Oswald's, even before they were married, either
12 by their technical or physical surveillance would they have
13 started to observe or surveil Marina?

14 Mr. Nosenko. No, but the meeting with Oswald, if he is
15 under surveillance, they will be sure to observe, when he is
16 under surveillance, because he wasn't from the first day under
17 surveillance, periodically from time to time.

18 Mr. Klein. You told us that you saw a cable sent from the
19 Mexico City Embassy to Moscow asking whether Oswald should be
20 granted a visa, is that right?

21 Mr. Nosenko. The cable stated the fact of his visit, his
22 name, and stated the purpose of his visit, and asked what the
23 opinion of the center of the KGB in Moscow was on this.

24 Mr. Klein. What opinion, as far as whether he should be
25 given a visa to Russia?

1 Mr. Nosenko. What they must tell him. It wasn't told but
 2 I assume, an assumption, that when he visited the Soviet
 3 Consulate, the Soviet Embassy, Soviet in Mexico City, he must
 4 have told them that he was in Russia before, that he was living
 5 there, that is why they asked what must be, what is your opinion.
 6 In other words, they simply will decide or reject or what if he
 7 is not known.

8 This is an assumption.

9 Mr. Klein. But they asked Moscow's opinion on whether he
 10 should be given a visa?

11 Mr. Nosenko. What must be action taken, what must be
 12 given him answer.

13 Mr. Klein. But his request was can I come to Russia?

14 Mr. Nosenko. His request was he wanted a visa to come to
 15 Russia.

16 Mr. Klein. And you actually read that cable?

17 Mr. Nosenko. I have seen this and read the cable with my
 18 own eyes.

19 Mr. Klein. And can you tell us, as best you can, the
 20 words that were in the cable, as best you can remember them?

21 Mr. Nosenko. I cannot tell you word by word. It was long
 22 ago contact. What I remember was, that an American citizen,
 23 that an American, Lee Harvey Oswald, such and such date, visited
 24 the Consulate Department of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City,
 25 and asked, requested a visa to the Soviet Union. The resident

1 of the KGB in Mexico City asked opinion of Moscow on this sub-
2 ject.

3 Mr. Klein. And who brought that cable to you and handed
4 it to you?

5 Mr. Nosenko. The cable was brought by Lt. Colonel Vladimir
6 Alekseev, Chief of 7th Department. He in return received it in
7 the Intelligence Service, in Service Number 2, from Deputy
8 Chief of this Service, Colonel Turalin.

9 Mr. Klein. Where were you when he gave you that?

10 Mr. Nosenko. I was in my office in the 7th Department,
11 Second Chief Directorate.

12 Mr. Klein. When Oswald went to Minsk, were they specifi-
13 cally told not to have any direct contact with him, not to
14 debrief him?

15 Mr. Nosenko. Yes, the document which accompanied file
16 on Oswald particularly said not to go in contact.

17 Mr. Klein. How soon after Kennedy was assassinated was
18 Oswald's name known to you as the assassin?

19 Mr. Nosenko. I cannot tell you exactly. The first infor-
20 mation was announced on the radio about the fact of assassina-
21 tion of the President, and later, I don't know how many hours --

22 Mr. Klein. Was it a matter of hours or like the next day
23 as opposed --

24 Mr. Nosenko. I think it was a matter of hours.

25 Mr. Klein. So in a matter of hours after Kennedy was

1 killed, you knew, you heard information Oswald was the one who
2 killed him?

3 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

4 Mr. Klein. And who then told you to call Minsk?

5 Mr. Nosenko. Chief of Second Chief Directorate, General
6 Gribanov, gave an order immediately to contact Minsk.

7 Mr. Klein. When Oswald's file arrived from Minsk, and
8 you told us there were a number of volumes, did you have an
9 opportunity to thoroughly review the file?

10 Mr. Nosenko. The first part, the first section of the
11 first volume, where there were the important materials of his
12 file.

13 Mr. Klein. That you thoroughly reviewed?

14 Mr. Nosenko. Page by page, looking, having in mind, search
15 of any indication that anyone from KGB in Minsk had no contact
16 with Oswald.

17 Mr. Klein. Was there any indication that anyone from
18 KGB had had any contact with Oswald?

19 Mr. Nosenko. There wasn't. It was told by the phone,
20 before we had seen file, no one had a contact, and the same we
21 didn't find in the file.

22 Mr. Klein. The letter that you told us Krupnov sent to
23 Minsk telling them what to do about Oswald, did you have an
24 opportunity to read that letter yourself?

25 Mr. Nosenko. Yes, I have seen it, and its accompanying

1 document with file. It wasn't sent before I left, it was
2 prepared in December of '59.

3 Mr. Klein. But you saw it?

4 Mr. Nosenko. I saw it.

5 Mr. Klein. Who was the person who took the file from you
6 after the assassination?

7 Mr. Nosenko. Deputy Chief of First Department Second
8 Chief Directorate, Colonel Matveev.

9 Mr. Klein. And did the First Department, did they write
10 a summary of the file?

11 Mr. Nosenko. Yes.

12 Mr. Klein. Who wrote that summary?

13 Mr. Nosenko. I cannot tell you.

14 Mr. Klein. Did you have an opportunity to read the
15 summary that they wrote?

16 Mr. Nosenko. No, I haven't seen it.

17 Mr. Klein. Do you recall specifically who came and took
18 the file and brought it to the American department?

19 Mr. Nosenko. Colonel Matveev, and with him there were
20 two officers.

21 Mr. Klein. Was one of the officers Fedoseyev?

22 Mr. Nosenko. He was one of the officers.

23 Mr. Klein. And was Fedoseyev one of the people who wrote
24 the summary?

25 Mr. Nosenko. I cannot tell you who was writing, I haven't
seen it.

Mr. Klein. Do you know whether the summary that was

1 written by the First Department concluded that Oswald had no
2 contact with the KGB?

3 Mr. Nosenko. Sure, I am sure, no doubt, because this is
4 what we didn't found, and when Matveev has come to take file he
5 asked is there anything. We said we didn't find anything, plus
6 I talked to Krupnov, he assured me there wasn't any contact.

7 Mr. Klein. So you know the conclusion would be that there
8 was no contact because of your own looking at the file, but not
9 from looking at the summary, because you never saw the summary?

10 Mr. Nosenko. I haven't seen the summary, but the first
11 part of the first volume was the most important documents of
12 the whole file.

13 Mr. Klein. When Oswald was sent to Minsk, did any part
14 of his file or any papers on him remain in Moscow?

15 Mr. Nosenko. Nothing. There was only a registration of
16 file in the archives of KGB, but he was registered, and again,
17 when file was sent to Minsk it will be sent through general
18 archives, it will be returned by the officer, say, Krupnov,
19 after all signatures were put on the file, will be returned to
20 archives of the KGB, which will send his file to Minsk, but
21 they will have an index that there was file, but no file is
22 in Minsk.

23 Mr. Klein. So in Moscow there will be an indication that
24 a file exists and that is in Minsk?

25 Mr. Nosenko. Created by file by 7th Department, Second

Chief Directorate and sent to Minsk.

Mr. Klein. The actual information will be in Minsk?

Mr. Nosenko. All materials, any piece of paper on him is in file and all in Minsk.

Mr. Klein. You told us about the volumes in the file that were returned by military plane from Minsk.

Mr. Nosenko. Right.

Mr. Klein. That and the other volumes, did it include all the records of the phone surveillance and periodic surveillance that was included?

Mr. Nosenko. Included, that is why it is so thick file, copy, for a copy translation, if it is an English letter he received or he sent.

Mr. Klein. And were there transcriptions of all his phone conversations?

Mr. Nosenko. Surely.

Mr. Klein. And in that file that you received from Minsk were there any copies of letters that were sent by Oswald to Washington, D. C., to the Soviet Embassy?

Mr. Nosenko. I didn't see it, because, sir, we didn't have time to go through every volume. The file was taken in the First Department Directorate.

Mr. Klein. When you first spoke to the officers from Minsk, when you spoke to them on the phone, what did you ask them?

1 Mr. Nosenko. I wanted first of all to talk with Chief
 2 of Second Directorate KGB Minsk, or his Deputy, whom I knew,
 3 Colonel Laryutin, but I couldn't get him or he was out or some
 4 day at meeting, then I asked Gruzdev, Chief of the Department,
 5 who I also know, responsible for foreigners when they visit
 6 Minsk, his department. I talked to him.

7 Mr. Klein. What did you ask him?

8 Mr. Nosenko. I ask him, first of all told him there is
 9 an order of General Griбанov to send immediately all materials
 10 on Oswald, his file, with an officer as soon as possible, even
 11 to use a military plane, not to await commercial flight and,
 12 second, I say Griбанov particularly asked me to check with you,
 13 did anyone in KGB have any contact with Oswald. He assured me
 14 nobody had, because they were leading in accordance with what
 15 they received in the beginning, the material document with
 16 file, which indicated work must be done.

17 Mr. Klein. Had Griбанov personally spoken to you and told
 18 you to get this information?

19 Mr. Nosenko. Right. He had given me call by phone, and
 20 after that I immediately contacted Minsk.

21 Mr. Klein. Where were you when he asked you?

22 Mr. Nosenko. In my office, 7th Department, Second Division.

23 Mr. Klein. How long did he speak to you?

24 Mr. Nosenko. Two minutes, not more.

25 Mr. Klein. Had he called you many times before that?

1 Mr. Nosenko. Yes, several times.

2 Mr. Klein. You specifically remember this call?

3 Mr. Nosenko. This call. Then after that, he was saying
4 did file arrive? I said no, but it must be from minute to
5 minute, we are waiting.

6 Mr. Klein. To your knowledge, when Oswald was in Moscow,
7 after he made his suicide attempt, did any KGB officer speak
8 to him?

9 Mr. Nosenko. No.

10 Mr. Klein. And after he made his suicide attempt do you
11 know if any government officials spoke to him?

12 Mr. Nosenko. I do not know, but I assume somebody from
13 Red Cross was talking with him.

14 Mr. Klein. Would anybody from MVD have spoken to him?

15 Mr. Nosenko. I don't know. As far as I know, no.

16 Mr. Klein. Do you know that Marina Oswald had an uncle
17 who was in the militia?

18 Mr. Nosenko. Right.

19 Mr. Klein. And are you aware of any contact that he had
20 with Oswald?

21 Mr. Nosenko. Sure, he must have seen Oswald.

22 Mr. Klein. Are you aware of any particular contact he had
23 with him, any orders he might have given him or instructions?

24 Mr. Nosenko. No.

25 Mr. Klein. Was Oswald ever used to make any propaganda

1 statements against the United States?

2 Mr. Nosenko. I do not know. I have never heard.

3 Mr. Klein. Would that have been in his file?

4 Mr. Nosenko. Yes.

5 Mr. Klein. And did you see it in there?

6 Mr. Nosenko. No. And will be in first part, because this
7 is an important document.

8 Mr. Klein. So it is your statement that he didn't make
9 any propaganda statements?

10 Mr. Nosenko. Yes. Judging by the first part, which is
11 the most important document, there wasn't any indication.

12 Mr. Klein. To your knowledge, are there any KGB training
13 schools in Minsk?

14 Mr. Nosenko. As far as I know, prior to 1956-57, there
15 was a school for young officers of KGB, there was in Minsk, like
16 in all other Soviet Union Republics and capitals, where officers
17 of KGB hired to work in the KGB was studying short courses, a
18 year, two years. But, from second part of about '57, there
19 wasn't any, there wasn't existing these schools more, because
20 the training educational system of whole KGB was in Moscow,
21 excluding, of course, school of surveillance in Leningrad and
22 excluding military counterintelligence schools, border troops,
23 but for the officers of First Chief Directorate, Second Chief
24 Directorate, only was in Moscow.

25 Mr. Klein. So when Lee Harvey Oswald was in Minsk, there

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was no KGB training school there?

Mr. Nosenko. There wasn't any KGB training school.

Mr. Klein. Were there any summaries in the file that you received from Minsk, was there a summary of that file that came with it?

Mr. Nosenko. Sure, there was summaries, summary, let's say, for half a year, past, and summaries for this period of time received, what is interesting.

Mr. Klein. Were you able to read the summaries?

Mr. Nosenko. Yes, we passed through all of these materials.

Mr. Klein. The psychiatric reports that were taken when Oswald went to the hospital, about how long were each of those reports?

Mr. Nosenko. A page, page and a half. A piece of paper.

Mr. Klein. Do you have anything else that you would like to add to this deposition?

Mr. Nosenko. No sir.

Mr. Klein. Is everything that you have told us in this statement true to the best of your recollection?

Mr. Nosenko. Absolutely, sir.

Mr. Klein. When you spoke in the past, have you always been truthful in the Oswald aspect of this case?

Mr. Nosenko. Yes sir.

Mr. Klein. In the past, when you were interrogated you were truthful with the interrogators about Oswald?

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Mr. Nosenko. Yes, whatever I knew I told.

Mr. Klein. This statement that you are giving us today, is this a voluntary statement that you are giving us?

Mr. Nosenko. Yes sir.

Mr. Klein. And I should also note for the record that you have in front of you and you were given before the deposition began a copy of our Committee rules and --

Mr. Nosenko. Right.

Mr. Klein. -- and the resolution establishing our Committee, is that correct?

Mr. Nosenko. Yes.

Mr. Klein. And you were given an opportunity to read these?

Mr. Nosenko. Yes sir.

Mr. Klein. Before we conclude, is there anything else that you want to add to what you have stated?

Mr. Nosenko. I have answered your questions.

Mr. Klein. It is now 11:25, and at this time we will complete the statement.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Nosenko. Thank you, sir.

(Whereupon, at 11:25 a.m., the deposition was concluded)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Robert B. Thomas, stenotype reporter, do hereby certify that the testimony of the witness which appears in the foregoing deposition was taken by me in stenotype and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, or financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Robert B Thomas

Stenotype Reporter

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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

I, Lula S. Hook, the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by Robert B. Thomas, stenotype reporter, and thereafter reduced to typewriting under his direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Notary Public in and for
Fairfax County

My Commission expires March 11, 1979.