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IA AIRMAIL

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Moscow, Nov. 16--(NANA)--"For two years now I have been waiting to do this one thing. To dissolve my American citizenship and become a citizen of the Soviet Union." Today, twenty year-old Lee Harvey Oswald of Fort Worth, Tex Texas, is in Moscow. He hopes he's close to his goal.

With his suit of charcoal gray flannel, dark tie and tan cashmere sweater he looks, and sounds, like Joe College with a slight Southern xxxxxx drawl. But his life hasn't been that of a typical college boy.

Lee's father, an insurance salesman, died before he was born. Raised in Texas and Louisiana, the boy spent two years in New York during his early teens. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines. "I did it," he says, he "because we were poor and I didn't want to be a burden on my mother." Later, he spent 14 months in as a licensed radar operator in the Far East.

This September, his 3-year hitch nearly done, the Marines gave him a dependency discharge. Just one month later, after an exhausting trip by land, sea and air, he arrived in Moscow to xxx petition the Supreme Soviet, highest legislative body in the U.S.S.R., for Soviet citizenship. Living in Moscow's Hotel Metropole on money he earned as a U.S. Marine, Lee Oswald waits for an answer.

Even though Russian officials have warned him Soviet citizenship is not easy to obtain, Lee already refers to the Soviet government as "my government." "but," says Lee, "even if I am not accepted, I on no account will I go back to the United States. I shall remain here, if necessary, as a resident alien." All Soviet officials will promise today is that Lee can stay on in Russia regardless of whether he becomes a citizen.

Meanwhile, they're "investigating" the possibility of sending him to a Soviet higher technical institute.

At an age when angry young rebels all over the world may find release in aping the Beatniks, what brought this serious, soft-spoken Southern boy to Moscow with no other ambition but to spend the rest of his life as a Soviet citizen? Evidently, it's a combination of poverty, the plight of the U.S. Negro, and the U.S. Marines.

"My mother," says Lee, "has been a worker all her life. She's a good example," he adds, "of what happens to workers in the United States." He declines to elaborate. "At the age of 15," he adds, "after watching the way workers are treated in ~~xxxxx~~ New York, and Negroes in the South, I was looking for a key to my environment. Then I discovered Socialist literature." Lee was struck, in particular, by Marx's "Das Kapital." He concluded that, as an American, "I would ~~xxxxx~~ become either a worker exploited for capitalist profit, or an exploiter or, since there are many in this category, I'd be one of the unemployed." Lee became a Marxist. Later, as a Marine Corps Private in Japan and the Philippines, he "had a chance to watch American militarist imperialism in action."

Fully a year ago, Lee began getting ready to come to Russia. Using a Berlitz grammar, he taught himself to read and write Russian. Never, says Lee, a nice-looking six-footer with gray eyes and brown hair, did he consider deserting the Marine Corps.

Does it occur to Lee that Soviet officials may be embarrassed by his effort to become a citizen of their country at a moment when Russia is cultivating good relations with the United States?

Russian officials, says Lee, "don't encourage and don't discourage me." They warn, however, that neither Lee's wish, <sup>not</sup> theirs, will determine whether his citizenship application ~~will~~ is to be accepted. <sup>They say</sup> ~~it depends on the "yes - all politics"~~ ~~of the government, the government~~ ~~of the government, the government~~ Meanwhile, they've offered Lee the sanctuary of a prolonged stay in the U.S.S.R.

As for officials at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, they're torn between their desire to give Lee time to think it over, and their legal obligation to ~~xxxxxx~~ hear his oath renouncing American citizenship if he insists. Lee is bitter at U.S. Consul Richard Snyder, who, he charges, stalled him when he asked to take the oath on Oct. 31, only time Lee's been at the Embassy. As a result, Lee won't go back there. He'll let the Soviet government handle legal details when, and if, he becomes a citizen of the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, he's handed over his passport to the American Embassy.

Embassy officials admit they're a bit gun shy. It's their third case of attempted defection this fall. The first, Nicholas Petrulli, ~~xxxxxx~~ changed his mind about defecting just before Russia refused him citizenship. Petrulli had a history of mental illness. The second, Webster, an employee of the Rand Co., asked for, and received, Soviet citizenship ~~xxxxxx~~ after he had spent the summer ~~xxx~~ working at the U.S. Fair in Moscow's Sokolniki Park. But Webster and Petrulli had had marital troubles back home.

Unlike Webster and Petrulli, Lee Oswald has never been married. His age—he won't be 21 until next Oct. 18—is apparently no bar to renouncing his American citizenship. Russians come of age at 18.

As for ordinary Russians he meets, do they express surprise at Lee's desire to defect? "Well," says Lee, "they're very curious and they ask me why." But materialist Muscovites, he adds, "understand when I speak of the idealistical reasons that brought me here. And they ask me many questions about the material conditions of workers in the United States."

Regardless of any "material shortcomings" he sees while he's here, Lee insists he'll never go back to the ~~Hubbards~~ U.S.A. "Emigration," he says, "isn't easy. I don't recommend it to everyone. It means coming to a new country, always being the outsider, always having to adjust. But to me, my reasons are ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ strong and good. I believe I'm doing right."

won't

That's why Lee ~~xxxxxxxx~~ take any ~~phone~~ calls when his mother telephones from Fort Worth to beg him not to defect.

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JOHNSON (PRISCILLA) EXHIBIT No. 2—Continued