

Besides, he is one of the arch-romantics of the Twentieth Century. Of course he will not leave without Marina. What kind of love story would that amount to? He is not only our protagonist but his own novelist. Can he be working away in the privacy of his mind on the novel he will write some day of his unparalleled experiences?

January 22, 1962

Mrs. Helen Harwell
Executive Secretary, American Red Cross
Wilbarger County Chapter, Box 1766
Vernon, Texas

Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

Dear Mrs. Harwell:

Since we had a call from the State Department on Mr. Oswald's case, your communication of January 14th did not come as a surprise. However, since we are a refugee agency which is usually not concerned with the problems of American citizens who need funds to return home, I'm afraid I will need some additional information before I can submit Mr. Oswald's request to our Finance Committee. Even then, the outcome is dubious. . .

If Mr. Oswald's case has meritorious features, I also wonder whether some funds could not be obtained from local civic groups and why the State Department would not assume

the responsibility for his repatriation, if not for the travel expenses of his wife.

We are a strongly anti-Communist organization and it does not happen very often that we have appeals for help from behind the Iron Curtain, let alone from the Soviet Union. You will therefore appreciate, I'm sure, our concern for the specifics of this unusual case.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Sternberg

Director, Resettlement Department

(n.5)

American Embassy

Moscow, USSR

January 24, 1962

Mr. Lee H. Oswald
House 4, Apartment 24,
Kalinina Street,
Minsk, USSR.

Dear Mr. Oswald:

. . .Regarding the visa petition for your wife, we are attempting to get an early decision from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and will of course inform you as soon as we receive word here.

We shall retain on file the affidavit and other documentation which you sent, although there is considerable doubt about their adequacy to meet the provisions of U.S. Immigration laws. You may be sure that this question will be fully explored. Meanwhile, I cannot

urge you strongly enough to attempt to obtain a support affidavit from a close relative in the United States, in order to insure that your wife will be able to travel with you. . .

Sincerely yours,
Joseph B. Norbury
American Consul (n.6)

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

To: Amembassy MOSCOW January 26, 1962
From: Department of State
Subject: VISAS: OPERATIONS: Case of Mrs. Marina N. OSWALD

The petition, check and marriage certificate submitted by Mr. Oswald were forwarded for approval to the Dallas District Office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service on October 6, 1961. NO reply has been received to date. The Central Office of INS, after checking telegraphically with its Dallas office, stated that it had obtained a report that the required investigations of the case had not yet been completed. Pending the completion of that investigation, neither the approval of the petition or the waiver of the 243(g) sanctions can be granted. . . (n.7)

The waiver of the 243(g) sanctions? It will yet account for most of the delay of the next four months. There are sanctions designed, after all, to forbid the entrance of immigrants from the Soviet Union. If this particular sanction 243(g) is not waived, the Oswalds will have to go from the USSR to some sanction-free country like Belgium, and there Marina can apply for a visa. It could take an extra week, it could take a month, and the Oswalds have no money; the State Department foresees added expenses for themselves, and much added difficulty with Oswald. So, they do not tell him that the waiver on the 243(g) sanction has not only not yet been granted, but, indeed, might not be. The State Department does not have jurisdiction over the Immigration and Naturalization Service which is a branch of the Department of Justice, not of State. Communications between officials from each Department will go on, therefore, for months, and Oswald will be kept unwitting of the depth of this problem.

January 20, 1962

Dear Robert,

... You have said that you asked around about whether or not the U.S. government had any charges

January 23, 62

Dear Mother,

Please do me a big favor go to the nearest office of the "Immigration and Naturalization offices" and file an

"affidavit of support" on behalf of my wife, this is a technical point in regards to permission to enter the U.S. for Marina, and must be made in the U.S. You simply fill out a blank (there may be a charge of a few dollars) and that's all.

Please do this now, as they are actually waiting for this document in Moscow. . .

Thanks

Love Lee (n.8)

State is not informing him of the refusal of INS to waive the sanction of 243(g). (Can one define bureaucracy as that first collective venture of the human spirit that substituted numbers for nouns?) Nonetheless, informed or not, Oswald senses that something is out of place.

Your brother,

Lee & Marina (n.8)

January 30, 1962

Dear Robert,

. . . You once said that you asked around about whether or not the U.S. government had any charges against me. You said at that time "No." Maybe you should ask around again. It's possible now that the government knows I'm coming, they'll have something waiting.

Mother wrote me a letter the other day in which she informed me that the Marine Corps had given me a dishonorable discharge in November, 1959. Did you know this?

Of course, this is not too bad since it relieves me of reserve duty, but still, I should take this into account.

I wrote a letter to John B. Connelly, Secretary of the Navy, who lives in Fort Worth, asking about my dishonorable discharge. Maybe you could ask him to look into the case since I don't know whether the Russians will let that letter through. . .

. . . Marina sends her love to all, as I do. Hope to see you all soon. I really don't know where we'll settle. I'd sort of like New Orleans.

How's the hunting out at the farm? How's the weather and all?

If you find out any information about me, please let me know. I'd like to be ready on the draw, so to speak. We'll keep writing until we get ready to leave so don't quit writing.

Your brother,
Lee & Marina (n.9)

A week later, the silver of sancti
A week later, the silver of sancti
American Embassy
Moscow, USSR
January 31, 1962

Mr. Lee H. Oswald
House 4, Apartment 24

Kalinina Street

Minsk, USSR

Dear Mr. Oswald:

. . .The Embassy is not yet in a position to issue your wife's visa for two reasons. First, an approved visa petition for your wife has not yet been received from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Second, it is not yet clear that the affidavit of support which you submitted, without other evidence substantiating your financial ability to sponsor your wife, satisfies the public charge provision of the law. . .

. . .Although the Embassy is making every effort to complete action on your wife's visa application as soon as possible, it seems highly unlikely that the visa can be issued in time to permit her to travel before your child is born. Most airlines will not accept passengers during the ninth month of pregnancy. Therefore, it would seem advisable for you to plan for the baby to be born before you leave for the United States.

Very truly yours,

Joseph B. Norbury

American Consul (n.10)

A week later, the waiver of sanctions is once again denied.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
TO: Deputy Associate Commissioner, Travel Control
Central Office, Washington D.C.
FROM: J.W. Holland, District Director
San Antonio, Texas
SUBJECT: Waiver of Sanctions; Visa Petition; Lee Harvey
Oswald, petitioner; and Marina N. Oswald,
beneficiary.
Attention: Examinations

. . .Although the petition was completed by the Dallas office to show approval, such action was not sustained by this office, and the petition has not been approved. The petitioner has not been notified as to final action.

/s/ J.W. Holland

AIR MAIL

Received
February 7, 1962
Division (n.11)

Marguerite, meanwhile, attempting to be creative in the arts of raising money, is also being denied.

February 1, 1962

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald,
Box 982,
Vernon, Texas
Dear Mrs. Oswald:

. . .your son had indicated in his latest letter he may be able to defray part of the cost. The Embassy is being requested to report how much Mr. Oswald can provide. In the meantime, it is hoped you will be able to raise the money possibly by a loan from a bank or from relatives or friends. . .

. . .Concerning your suggestion that you make your son's story public with an appeal for help, although the Department is not in a position to advise you on this matter, it is not believed this would offer a solution to his problem.

Sincerely yours,
George H. Haselton,
Chief, Protection and
Representation Division
(n.12)

Feb. 1, 1962

Dear Mother,

. . .As to your questions about the money problem I don't know if giving the story to the newspapers is too good, maybe you'd better hold off for awhile about that. I'll tell you when. . .

. . .I want you to understand that although you can aid us in certain, small ways this business about our coming to the U.S., is relatively simple don't make it more complicated than it is. . .

Lee (n.13)

Now the State Department decides that there is only one way to disembarass themselves of their most prominent petitioner.

American Embassy
Moscow, USSR
February 6, 1962

Mr. Lee H. Oswald
House 4, Apartment 24
Kalinina Street
Minsk, USSR
Dear Mr. Oswald:

In your letter of January 5, 1962, you asked whether you could obtain a loan to cover part of your transportation back to the United States. We are prepared to take your application for a loan. [However] the recipient must keep the Department of State informed of his address in the United States until such time as he has liquidated his indebtedness. After repatriation, the

recipient will not be furnished a passport for travel abroad until he has reimbursed the Government. . .

Very truly yours,
Joseph B. Norbury
American Consul (n.14)

". . .The recipient will not be furnished a passport for travel abroad until he has reimbursed the Government."

Paying off this loan will become a major passion for Oswald once he is back in America.

Feb. 9, 1962

Dear Mother

Well, it won't be long now until the baby is born and until we shall be seeing you. . .

. . .Also you can see about sending me some clippings or columns from the Ft. Worth papers for the month of Nov. 1959. I want to know just what was said about me in the Ft. Worth newspapers so I can be forewarned. If you don't have clippings yourself, you can always get back issues of newspapers. . .at their offices or the public library...

Love from us both,

Lee (n.15)

Chapter 18 -- An Addition to the Family

February 15, dawn Marina wakes me. It's her time. At 9 o'clock we arrive at the hospital. I leave her in care of nurses and leave to go to work. Ten o'clock Marina has a baby girl whom I visit at the hospital at 5 o'clock after work. I am given news. We both wanted a boy. Marina feels well, baby girl.

In the last month of pregnancy, her body would ache sometimes, or her legs, and Alik would rub them and kiss them and say, "My poor, poor girl. You're hurting yourself just to give life to our baby." (n.1) and she felt at such times as if Alik really loved her.

She had often thought she was going to lose her baby; she kept fainting all too often. Yet narrow hips or not, childbirth was quick; she was fortunate. Even pharmacy girls who had turned away from her at work because she was going to America, were supportive when it came to a matter of pregnancy. They insisted that her child be delivered at Third Clinical Hospital, and when Marina said, "I don't agree," they said, "Marina, right here in Third Clinical by our pharmacy you'll be safest of all." They were very considerate

and so she agreed.

The night before, she and Alik had been visiting friends, and had an evening she would call full of gaiety. A wonderful evening. Then, before dawn, it happened. Marina woke up at six and told Lee they had to go to Third Clinical, baby was arriving. It was almost funny. Lee was so frightened that it was humorous to watch his suffering. He acted as if he was the one who had to go, he kept hurrying her, and now, of course, she did not feel anything that was terrible in her labor pains and didn't even want to leave their apartment--Lee had to persuade her.

Finally, they went out at nine A.M., and then, just as if Providence was looking on, and Providence was being very deliberate, they couldn't get a taxi. Not one to be found. Had to wedge themselves onto a crowded bus. She had never seen Lee looking so nervous. What with snow underfoot, every step felt slippery, but finally they did reach Third Clinical in safety, and then Lee had to turn around and go to work. They wouldn't allow him to be with her. In Russia, prevailing procedure was for women to stay in hospital ten days after baby is born. It even takes three days before you can talk nurses into letting you out of bed, and in all such time, no one but new mothers and hospital people are with her baby, no relatives, no friends, no infections from outside! Even new

father is without permission to enter maternity ward. He can only visit hospital lobby and leave gifts there for his beloved.

On that morning, June was born near 10 o'clock, February 15, 1962, and Alik hadn't even reached his job before pharmacy friends called Horizon. When he came in to his workbench, there were his fellow workers all congratulating him on a daughter. When he had wanted a son. All the same, he dropped off a letter to her that evening.

February 15, 1962

Dear Marina,

You and I did not expect a girl at all but I am very glad, just the same. You are a stout fellow! How did you succeed in delivering so fast? At 11:00 o'clock? You are a stout fellow! And I will say that again!

If you need anything, tell me any of your wishes; you and I are completely ready for June Marina Oswald.

Aleck (n.2)

Her letter was waiting for him:

Dear Aleck!

So you are a father now. It is even nice that we have a girl. The delivery went off very well and fast. June was born at 10 o'clock. They sewed up only four small outside cracks. I myself did not expect that everything would be so fast. Aunt Valya will probably come to see you this evening. She has been here already today. Do not bring anything today. And tomorrow bring only kefir and some dessert. I no longer can have chocolates. You already know the rest.

I kiss you,

Marina (n.3)

Notes went back and forth. Sometimes on scraps of paper. He was restricted to her hospital entrance, and she was up on Floor Three.

Dear!

How are you? There is no Kefir. What do you need?

Did you nurse the baby already? Who called you up today?

I love you,

Alek (n.4)

Was he being psychic again? Friends from Medical
Institute who did student practice at Third Clinical dropped
by to visit. Would he be jealous of that?

What is with you?

How can I see you?

I'm downstairs if you're able to come here.

Alek (n.5)

She discovered that she wanted to see him. Very much.
She managed it by sneaking down to her Pharmacy at first floor
and there he met her. She was breaking hospital rules. One
more sin on her soul. Ha, ha.

Lee was very glad to have a daughter, he said, as if he
had never had any dreams it would be a son. Then he said that
a girl, first born, was probably better for the mother, but
next one--it ought to be, it would have to be a son.

On go his notes: "Come to me at the drugstore. I am waiting. . ."

He sends Marguerite a letter, giving a few details of the birth, then gets down to taking care of business.

Feb. 15, 1962

Dear Mother

. . .If you don't have that letter from the Marine Corps, telling about the discharge how about getting a copy. I would like to have some material upon which to start before going into the discharge matter further with the Marines.

That's about all for now Love from all three of us.

LoveXXX

Marina

June

PS. Enclosed 3 pictures of Marina and I. (n.6)

With Robert, once he has penned his amenities about June's birth--"we are lucky to have a little girl, don't you think?"--he is ready for other items. "I heard over the Voice

of America that they released Powers, the U.S. sky plane fellow. That's big news where you are, I suppose. He seemed to be a nice bright American-type fellow when I saw him in Moscow."

It is a passing reference, but since there is no record of Oswald's being in Moscow in May of 1960 when Powers was shot down nor in August of 1960 when Powers went on trial in a Moscow courtroom--and we can certainly recall Oswald's legitimate trepidation about traveling to Moscow in July of 1961--it is more likely, given his ability to put the flesh of fiction on the bones of fact, that he saw Powers--not met him --on television beamed from Moscow around February 10, 1962 when Powers was exchanged for the Soviet master-spy, Rudolph Abel.

In any event, the point of this letter to Robert is soon reached:

. . .You wouldn't have any clippings from the November, 1959, newspapers of Fort Worth, would you?

I am beginning to get interested in just what they did say about me and my trip here.

The information might come in handy. . .I would hate to come back completely unprepared.

(n.7)

Feb. 18 '62

Dear Marina,

. . . Aunt Valya and Uncle Ilya visited me this morning. She will come to see you tomorrow at 2:00. I told her what should be bought. Erich and I were at the Zigers yesterday until 24 o'clock.

What do you need? Can you walk? Did Inessa visit you? Is June still red? When Aunt Valya comes tomorrow, give her the photographs. Aunt Lyuba is going to see you today.

Well, so long.

Your husband,

Aleck

P.S. I will not come tomorrow. Is it all right? (n.8)

Marina was irritated. She wrote back: "You don't even see me for a night." Then he appeared late on the following evening, sneaking up from her pharmacy. He had a gift for travelling soundlessly. But she was feeling neglected. She recalls that he saw a lot of Erich that week. Of course, now, thirty years later, she can hardly remember Erich.

Dear Marina

I know that you did not want me to come today but I wanted to give you this book so that you could study. If

you need anything tell Eric when he comes or call me at work. I hope they will let you go on Saturday. I miss you very much. I'll wait here five minutes so you can give me a message if you want to. If I don't get it I'll leave. It will be alright.

(n.9)

2/20/62

Hello, papa!

. . . Aleck, I did not think it was so difficult to nurse a baby. June eats through your cover. But the milk rises before each feeding time and should be drawn off. It is so painful that it would be better if I gave birth to one more baby. Dear Aleck, immediately, this very day, buy for me and send me a breast pump, so that the rubber bulb is taut, not soft.

I am afraid to get mastitis. Aleck, I became so awful looking that you would not recognize me. This is all because I worry about June not taking the breast. Also, they do not let you have enough sleep here--only from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. I cannot imagine what I will do at home. Aleck, I also urgently need 1 ruble 20 kopecks. After all, I cannot walk around without a brassiere. Someone bought two for a woman here and she sold me one of them. I must pay her back. This is not for making myself beautiful, but to keep milk from getting stagnant. You all there do not even think about bringing me what I need. All you are doing is just asking what I need. . . Oh, well, enough of this, I close.

/s/Marina (n.10)

Feb 21 '62

Dear Marina,

Today we received a very nice present for June from the factory; I know you will like it.

They bought: one summer blanket, 6 light diapers, 4 warm diapers, 2 chemises, 3 very good warm chemises, 4 (?) very nice suits and two toys (total 27 rubles).

How is June eating?

I probably won't come tomorrow. All right?

I love you,

Aleck (n.11)

February 23 Marina leaves hospital. I see June for first time.

At entrance to Third Clinical, Marina was met by relatives and friends, a crowd. It was cold outside, and she and Alik were terrified that if June took even one breath of cold air she would be endangered. Young father and mother! Later, when they reached their apartment, he wouldn't even let people come into the room where June was being kept until all chill was off their clothing, and Lee was so excited he kept running around back and forth and couldn't talk, couldn't

breathe, he was in more danger than their baby from cold air.

On this first night home, Valya was having a birthday party at her home, and Marina sent Lee to congratulate her, but he did not come back as soon as he had promised. Marina waited and waited. Their baby was crying and she did not know how to change diapers. It was OK at Third Clinical where you practiced on a doll, but this was her live baby and she was scared to death to touch her. So she was crying and her baby was crying and her husband was not home. She ran across to this neighbor who had children and asked what to do --then everything became all right. Her neighbor explained how to change June's diaper in Russian manner, a complicated way, swaddling. She had been shown before, but now she knew.

It was late at night when Lee came home and he was drunk. She had never seen him so drunk. He was loud, he was singing, he wanted to dance. He said, "They made me drink for our baby, for Aunt Valya, for Marina." He had been singing all the way home. He said, "Now I have my two girls." Yes, her poor American was not so used to Russian vodka. It was terribly funny to see him. He could not hold it and said so many silly things to her and to June. He swore on his love and was extremely happy, not at all rowdy, very obedient, in fact, sort of sheepish. Before long, he went straight to bed, fell into it.

It may have been Valya's birthday, but Ilya would have other reasons to remember it.

FROM KGB DOCUMENTS

Absol. Secret

2nd Office of KGB
under Council of Ministers of
BSSR

Document No. 2/2009
31 March, 1962

REPORT

Met agent of MVD "P" at meeting on 23.II.62. Said that he had recently spoken on two occasions with his niece, Marina, regarding her upcoming departure from the Soviet Union for the U.S. "P" explained to Marina necessity of conducting herself in worthy manner and not taking part in any anti-Soviet propaganda or other hostile actions aimed at Soviet Union, so as not to cause any trouble for "P" and other relatives living in USSR. Marina promised "P" that she would not commit any acts in U.S. that would compromise "P" or her other relatives.

"P" will continue to have educational conversations and will have a talk with "Nalim" so that upon arrival in

U.S. he will refrain from making any slanderous statements about USSR.

"P" explained that in conversation with Marina, expressing concern about her well-being, he inquired as to whether she had noticed anything suspicious in L.H. Oswald's behavior or actions which would show him to be a dubious personality. Marina stated to "P" that she had noticed nothing of that sort in Oswald's behavior.

During his meetings with her, "P" also asked Marina if she wasn't afraid that Oswald would be repressed by American authorities since he defected from United States. Marina is aware, having been told by Oswald, that in U.S. it is not considered to be a crime which would threaten him with arrest and that, supposedly, according to American laws, there is no basis for making Oswald answer for it after his return to U.S.

[signature, 31.III.62
30.III.62]

Assistant Director
of 1st Department
of 2nd Office
Captain Gregoriev, S.V.

There may have been organizational tension in such a meeting. Ilya's neighbor Misha Kovotich, the doctor, could explain some differences: "After all, KGB goals were different. KGB was dealing with foreign intelligence, and enemies from abroad; MVD was concerned with police, prison,

fire department, medicine, administration."

At one time, Misha was chief doctor for both KGB and MVD and a line of patients from both organizations would form as people waited for their turn. When a colonel from MVD came in, however, he would approach Misha's nurse like a big boss, and so she would take him right through. He was a colonel in uniform, after all. KGB guys were more modest. They didn't wear uniforms. So you couldn't determine their rank. They might be well dressed and elegant, but they would wait in line. KGB got upset, therefore, that somebody like a colonel in police could walk before them. KGB couldn't because they were not about to show who was who in rank among themselves. In fact, KGB was so unhappy with this behavior of MVD officers in a joint waiting room that they eventually set up their own polyclinic and even their own hospital in order to avoid such annoyances.

There were other differences. KGB did surveillance and so did MVD but, as police, MVD did it in more primitive style. There was a saying among MVD: "If you have enough strength, you don't need brains."

Of course, if a job concerned internal security, they would cooperate. All the same, you could always tell who was KGB and who from MVD because people in KGB were more cultivated and had better manners. Misha could say with some

authority that a lot of people who spoke of being called in by KGB had in fact been approached by MVD. Since both were located in exact same building on Lenin Prospect, you couldn't know one from another just by being summoned to that large yellow building with its high white columns out front to let everyone know it was a most important government building.