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CREATING THE OSWALD LEGEND

PART 1

1. AN UNSUAL DEFECTOR

Lee Harvey Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in the fall of 1959, on October 16. On the Saturday morning of 31 October 1959 he visited the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and threw his passport to the receptionist while announcing that he was willing to renounce his American citizenship. The surprised receptionist advised Oswald to discuss his matter with the American Consul, Richard Snyder. Oswald handed over to the consul a hand written letter declaring his allegiance to the "Union of the Soviet Republics". The second Consul, John McVickar, later testified to the Warren Commission that Oswald followed a pattern of behavior indicative that someone or some unknown parties had coached him

The receptionist, Joan Hallet, later recalled that a security officer took Oswald to the secure area upstairs where "a visitor would never ever get up there unless he was on official business."² (Dick Russell, p 116)

Oswald revealed to Snyder that on the 16th of October he had applied for Soviet citizenship. Snyder gave him a form and asked him to fill in his U.S. address plus the address of his closest relative. Oswald became upset because he did not want to involve his mother in this, but eventually he had to report her address in Fort Worth, Texas.

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We discussed earlier, the U-2 incident, operations OXCART and CORONA and the sabotage of the Peace Summit. We noted that the final proposals for the aircraft that would have replaced the U-2 were presented to the evaluation committee on August 20, 1959 and the final choice was made on August 29. Is it a coincidence, as Mark Prior pointed out, that three days earlier, on August 17, Oswald had filed for his discharge from the Marines? It is possible that the CIA, along with Air Force and parts of the defense industry had decided to throw Oswald in their Cold war games. Before travelling to the Soviet Union, Oswald had applied to attend the fall semester of an obscure European institution, the Albert Schweitzer College. Little did he know, that by doing so, he would unwittingly cross path with an influential Unitarian who was President of the American Friends of Albert Schweitzer College, had been a Director of the Bureau of Budget, and was involved in the U-2 and the CORONA project, through the Pentagon and the CIA.

1 Dick Russell, *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2nd ed. 2003 [1992]), pp. ...

(5) Word should take you to the position (at the end) of the next footnote and open up the footnote window. ²⁵Type your text in here and save. Repeat for each footnote.