

Proposed Topic Questions for Joan Hallett Interview, October 23, 1996

Background Information:

1. When did you arrive in Moscow?
2. Can you briefly describe your tour in Moscow?
3. Could you describe living in Moscow in 1959?
4. How did you get your job as the Embassy receptionist?
5. During what time period did you work as the Embassy receptionist?
6. What were your duties as Embassy receptionist?
7. Did you have a security clearance.
8. What was your working schedule
Which days of the week.
Did you work on Saturdays.
How often.
9. Were other members of your family living in Moscow.
What did they do.
10. Where did you live.

Embassy Details

1. Please describe the physical layout of the Embassy.
2. Number of buildings
3. Surrounded by fence?
4. Number of entrances to compound.
5. Number of entrances to building.

6. Number of floors in building
7. How many floors did you see.
8. Where did you and your family live.
9. Was the ground floor remodeled or reorganized while you were in Moscow? (See McVickar HSCA dep. at 29.)
10. Describe the general layout of the ground floor. (**pre and post changes**)
 - Describe the layout of the consular area.
 - All on the ground floor?
 - How many offices?
 - How many desks?

Personnel at Embassy

1. Did you know:
 - Richard Snyder
 - John McVickar
 - Vernay (Vera?) Deane (Stanley) Brown (McV mem 11/27/63)
 - Marie Cheatham (Newman, 10)
 - Alexis Davidson (McVickar HSCA 34-35)
 - Who was your husband
 - What was his role
 - Did he send any Oswald cables (Newman, 14)
 - Who else was on ground floor
2. What were their positions.
 - As between Snyder and McVickar, who was more senior?
 - What was their division of responsibility.
 - Any way their duties differed.
3. Was Snyder "Second Secretary" at the Embassy. (Snyder WC 261)
4. Where were their offices (**pre and post changes**)
 - ground floor?
 - upstairs?
 - which floor?

5. Where did they live?
Who lived in the building
McVickar (McVickar HSCA 33)
Snyder (ditto)
6. Why did some live in building and others not?

Standard Procedures for US Citizens wishing to see Consular officials

1. How frequently did Americans come to the Embassy to see consular officials.
2. Do you remember any instances.
3. How did they get into the Embassy.
4. Did they need to make appointments, or could they drop in.
5. What did they do after arriving.
6. Did they sign a register.
7. Any other records of their comings and goings.
8. What was your role with respect to American visitors.
9. Did all visitors pass by your desk.
10. Did visitors ever enter through other doors.
11. Were there any security procedures in place.
12. What days of the week was the Embassy open. [Open to the public?]
Saturday?
Sunday?
Hours?
Closed any afternoons?

13. How frequently did Americans wishing to live in the USSR come to the Embassy?

First Oswald Visit

1. Did you ever see Lee Harvey Oswald.
2. When.
3. Day of week.
4. Time of day.
5. Was embassy closed.
6. Describe what happened, as best you remember.
Whom did he see.
Where did he go.
Was anyone with him.
Any other impressions.
7. Did you leave your desk to go into Consul Richard Snyder's office?
8. Was John McVickar present on the first floor when Oswald was there?
9. How long was Oswald in the Embassy?
10. Why do you remember his visit?
11. What about Oswald's [first] visit was:
typical
out-of-the ordinary (if anything)

Any other visits by Oswald

1. Did Oswald ever come to the Embassy again? Do you know the approximate time

period?

2. What happened on any subsequent visits.
3. Where did he go
4. To the extent there were subsequent visits:
what was typical
what was out-of-the ordinary
5. Were visitors normally taken to the upper floors of the Embassy?
6. Did McVickar come downstairs by himself?
7. Did anyone else see Oswald, McVickar, and Snyder go up in the elevator?
8. Did you see Oswald leave the Embassy?
9. How long was Oswald with McVickar and Snyder?
10. In Anthony Summer's Vanity Fair article, you are quoted as saying that Oswald visited the Embassy "several times" in 1959. Were there any other visits you remember? Did you say this to Mr. Summers? What else do you recall about any other visits.

Leads

1. Anything else you recall that is of interest.
2. Do you have any suggestions for people we should contact.
3. Any suggestions on records that we might pursue.
Register for guests signing in.
4. Do you have any contemporaneous notes from 1959?
5. Any other records.