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Correspondence and memoranda relating to "Length of Time Required for Obtaining Soviet Tourist Visas in Helsinki and Stockholm, 1964."

Document Number 782-342  
for FOIA Review on JUN 1976

ATT. 1 To: XAAZ-22427

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201-289245

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**SECRET**

27 July 1964

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT : Length of Time Required for Obtaining Soviet Tourist Visas in Helsinki and Stockholm, 1964**

1. In response to a telephone inquiry concerning the time required (July 1964) for issuance of a Soviet visa for a US businessman, the Soviet consul in Helsinki stated that he could issue a transit visa (valid for 24 hours) in five minutes but that for a longer stay he would need about a week to process a visa application and have Inturist arrange for lodgings. He implied that the main reason for delays in visa issuances was a shortage of hotel space in the USSR.

2. A Finnish travel agency representative said in July 1964 that he is able to obtain Soviet tourist visas for his customers within five days if he pushes the matter.

3. A telephone check with the Soviet consulate in Stockholm in July 1964 revealed that normal visa processing there takes seven days but that this can be shortened to five days "in exceptional cases." The Soviet official receiving the telephone call stated that it was impossible to get a visa within two or three days.

4. A Soviet official in Stockholm indicated in 1964 that visa processing for foreigners wishing to visit the USSR normally takes six to eight days in Stockholm but that visas for Swedish businessmen and other personalities of special interest (not defined) can be processed directly by the Soviet embassy in Stockholm without referral to Moscow.

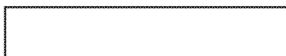
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JUN 1976

Based on cable inquiries to



Econ. Aff. - USSR

Int. Sec.

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**SECRET**

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empire in stockpiles without revealing to a person  
of special interest (not defined) and no disclosure directly by the State  
Department that such cases for disclosure were made and such persons  
for intelligence gathering to assist the USSR politically (takes aim to strip away in  
4. A State official in Stockholm indicated in 1964 that after processing

and within the of these days  
official revealing the telephone call stated that it was important to get a  
this can be explained to the State in exceptional cases. The State  
also revealed that political after processing there were seven days for that  
3. A telephone check with the State consists in Stockholm in 1964

he knows the matter.  
to get to obtain State further cases for the countries within the days if  
5. A further travel agency representative said in 1964 that he

of policy advice in the USSR.  
He implied that the main reason for delays in visa processing was a "bottle  
neck" to process a visa application and that political advice for lodging a  
visa) in the minutes of the meeting for a "bottle neck" which would speed a  
country in the future and that he could issue a passport visa (within the 30  
(1964) for issuance of a passport visa for a US passport holder. The State  
6. In response to a request for the full contents of the same referred

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