

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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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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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Based on cable inquiries to

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Department Number 100-100000

empire in stockpiles without revealing to a person
of special interest (not defined) and to process directly by the State
Department for that class for processing information and other requirements
for intelligence gathering to assist the USIA normally takes care to state in
4. A State official in Stockholm indicated in 1964 that after processing

and within the of these days
official receiving the telephone call stated that it was impossible to get a
this can be explained to the State in exceptional cases. The State
also revealed that normally after processing there is no such date but that
5. A telephone check with the State consists in Stockholm in 1964

he believes the matter
to state to obtain further information for the customer within the date of
6. A further travel agency representative said in 1964 that he

of other agents in the USIA.
He implied that the main reason for delays in visa processing was a shortage
week to process a visa application and make further arrangements for lodging
months) in the summer but that for a longer period would mean a
country in the future and that he could issue a passport visa (within 100 to
(100 to 100) for issuance of a passport visa for a US passport. The State
7. In response to a request for information concerning the time required

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