BY SR/CI/RESEARCH entired

"LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED FOR OBTAINING SOVIET TOURIST VISAS IN
HELSINKI AND STOCKHOLM, 1964" See XAA2-229

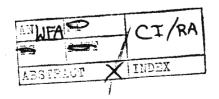
for chronological listing.

A memo from the Commission to CIA dated25 May 1964 inquired after information relating to the relatively showt period of time in which OSWAID acquired a tourist visa in Helsinki. The first attached item, a memo to the Commission dated 1 July 1964, provides such information as we could obtain on OSWAID's reconstructed timetable for travel from London to Helsinki. The second attached item, dated 31 July 1964, provides comments on length of time required to obtain a tourist visa in Helsinki and Stockholm.

For further information on these items, see:

Lee H. Wigren

Document Number 781-341
for FOIA Review on JUN 1976



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Doct-per 1 - 1

31 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

General Counsel

Fresident's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT

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

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- 1. In response to a telephone inquiry made in July 1964 concerning the time required 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) is five minutes but that for a langer 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 Finaish 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.

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/4. A Soviet official

tor FOIA Review on JUN 1976

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Tourist Visas in Bolninia and Stockholm, 1981 1. Length of Tince Sequired for Obtaining Soviet

- \$50% TOP THE reason for their ye in visa issuances was a southign of botal opace in and mays interist arrange for lodgings. He implied that the main a longer stop he would need about a week to process a visa application issue a transit visa (valid for 24 hours) in five ediantes but that for do posinestran, the Soviet coasel in defeable stated that he could ្នានាក្រុសព្រស^{្ស} រដ្ឋមាន រដ្ឋមាន **រស់**សំសុខម**ុខ រួនរ រុខ**ទស្សម្នាល់ សុរ្ត បាន**សុខស សុខម រួចស ខ** to go a softener in the pare tenene to live by it you go got being a park three
- The color of the largues the matter! than he is able to obtain Sovier tourist where it a his contomers within 2. Indish travel agency representative said in July 1964
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4. A Soviet official in Stockholm indicated in early 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.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

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