

State Department Has a Problem

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The State Department is uneasily pondering what to do about admitting a new large influx of "Old Believers"—this time from Russia.

Some 1,200 want to come to the U.S. to join the 250 members of their sect who were allowed to migrate from Turkey earlier this year under a ruling by Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy.

The so-called "Old Believers" split from the Russian Orthodox church in the 17th century and settled in Turkey. Last summer, a number of their descendants, through the Tolstoy Foundation of New York, sought admission to the United States on the ground they were under heavy pressure by Soviet agents to return to that country.

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Around 1,200 did go back to Russia in September. Now they are fed up and want to get out.

They have asked for readmittance to Turkey, but it doesn't want them.

So Turkey, in turn, is proposing the United States allow these 1,200 "Old Believers" to join the 250 admitted last summer.

This time Atty. Gen. Kennedy is passing the buck to the State Department—specifically, Abba Schwartz, controversial head of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs. He was a prime mover in arranging the entry of the original band of 250.

Kennedy is holding that the decision is up to the State Department because

the 1,200 "Old Believers" are living behind the Iron Curtain and determination of their case is outside of Justice Department jurisdiction.

Last summer, the attorney general ruled in favor of the 250 "Old Believers" on the ground they came under Section 212(D) of the Immigration Act granting temporary admittance under emergen-



Kennedy

cy conditions. Now Kennedy apparently doesn't consider this new proposal an emergency.

Rep. Michael Feighan (D-O.), chairman of a House judiciary subcommittee, who opposed the original admittance, is also against this one. He has summoned Schwartz for questioning on what the State Department plans to do.

Feighan has been told the Soviet has signified willingness to permit the 1,200 "Old Believers" to leave, provided Turkey or the United States will take them.

In challenging the admittance of the 250 "Old Believers" last summer, Feighan wrote the attorney general, "It seems

incredible that Turkey, a member of NATO, is unwilling or unable to provide these people with adequate protection from Soviet agents. I am unable to understand that."

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Lee Harvey Oswald slashed his wrists in a Moscow hotel in 1959 shortly after he notified the U.S. Embassy there that he was defecting to the Soviet.

That is one of the disclosures in the file the Kremlin has turned over to the State Department on the assassin. According to these records, Oswald made this apparent suicide attempt while unemployed and living at the Metropol Hotel.

His application to stay in Russia and obtain citizenship went all the way up to the Presidium. On the recommendation of Y. A. Furtseva, the file shows, Oswald was granted entry to prove himself a reliable Marxist. There is no indication in these records what the Reds thought of him.

Several years later, after working in various Soviet factories and marrying a Russian woman, the killer got a U.S. visa to return home.

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The Central Intelligence Agency is looking into information that two women and a man accompanied Oswald on his trip to Mexico last fall (Sept. 28-Oct. 3), and that the man subsequently flew to Cuba.

The CIA and other intelligence authorities are studying the possibility that Oswald may have been engaged in arranging an escape route after the planned murder.

While in Mexico City Oswald applied to the Cuban consul-general for a transit visa to Moscow. He was informed he would first have to get a visa from the Soviet.

The Mexican Immigration Service has told U.S. officials that Oswald crossed the border in a sailor's uniform. U.S. Immigration authorities have no record of that.