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Collection/Office of Origin: Bush, George H.W., Collection
Series: Personal Papers
Subseries: China Files, Subject File

OA/ID Number: 25881
Folder ID Number: 25881-009

Folder Title:
Major Pearce

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G	6	22	2	5



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

File

MAY 5 1976

Mr. George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear George:

Attached is a copy of our self-explanatory letter of this date to Mr. Lyday. As you will note we need additional information.

The requirements for validations for travel to all restricted areas, including Cuba, are set by the Department's political areas concerned with each instance. The Passport Office only has a ministerial function in these cases.

I will write to you again as soon as we receive further information from Mr. Lyday.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Frances

Frances G. Knight
Director, Passport Office

Attachment:
Letter to Mr. Lyday



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

In reply refer to:
PT/DSR - Lyday, Joe
Lyday, Mary Adley

MAY 5 1976

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lyday
4149 Ferndale Drive
Port Arthur, Texas 77640

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lyday:

Your recent inquiry concerning your making another trip to Cuba has been referred to my Office for reply.

As you know, your passports were validated on October 22, 1974, for one round trip to Cuba for the purpose of assisting your daughter in regaining custody of her son who was taken to Cuba by his father. Your April 5 letter indicates that you used your validation in March 1976 and were encouraged from this visit that your son-in-law might be convinced to allow your grandson to return to the United States if you could go to Cuba again.

However, before your request can be considered further, it will be necessary for you to provide this Office with more specific information concerning what progress you have made toward bringing out your grandchild from Cuba. Upon receipt of this information, your request will be given our prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Frances Knight

Frances G. Knight
Director, Passport Office

76-7637/1A

April 19, 1976

Dear Joe,

I hope the attached letter to the head of the Passport Office will help.

It was good seeing you up here. I am sorry things were so hectic.

Warm best wishes, my friend,

Sincerely,

George Bush

DCI/kgt/19 April 1976

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee w/att
Mr. Joe Lyday
4149 Ferndale
Port Arthur, Texas 77640

1 - DCI w/basic
1 - ER

19 April 1976

Miss Francis G. Knight
Director, Passport Office
Washington, D.C. 20524

Dear Frances:

The attached letter from a friend of mine, Joe Lyday, is self-explanatory. From the letter you will see that after many years of trying, Joe Lyday got to visit Cuba and got to see his grandson, who had been kidnapped years ago by the boy's own father, and spirited away to Cuba.

Joe Lyday now wants his passport stamped so he and his wife can return to Cuba on short notice if he is permitted to see his grandson again. He also wants to get a passport for the boy who is an American citizen. Can someone in your office give this one a personal look? I have been familiar with the case since my days in Congress and I really believe the Lydays merit government support.

If this request is in order, could someone please contact the Lydays at the address shown on their letter. Their phone numbers are: (713) 982-3609 (residence); (713) 983-1616 (office).

Thanks, Frances, for anything you might be able to do.

Sincerely,


George Bush
Director

bcc Mr. Joe Lyday
DCI/kgf/19 April 1976
Distribution:

Orig - Addressee
1 - Mr. Joe Lyday
1 - DCI w/basic
1 - ER

April 5, 1976

The Director of Central Intelligence
Honorable George Bush
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Sir:

Since you have on so many occasions in the past made many attempts to help us, we trust that you will remember us as the grandparents of Richard Harwood Pearce, Jr., whose father kidnapped him from his mother in 1967 following a divorce. His father, Richard Harwood Pearce, Sr., defected from the army and flew the child to Cuba where they have remained ever since. Throughout the years we have made repeated requests to the Cuban authorities for permission to visit our grandson. Recently as a direct result of a previous effort on your part, we were invited and did indeed visit our grandson in Cuba on March 5 through March 12. To our surprise we were guests of the government and as such were treated with the utmost kindness and generosity.

We discovered that after all these years our grandson remembered almost everything about us. There was never an awkward moment between us. Upon showing him family photos he was able to remember almost everyone. He was in fact as lovable and loving as though he'd never been away from us. Almost immediately, in the absence of his father he began to express dissatisfaction with his life in Cuba and begged us to implore his father to return so that he could "come back home". He told us that he constantly pleads with his father to do so. His father stated to us that he wasn't saying he'd never come back but certainly not at this time. The father appears to be under extreme mental pressure at this time. This we think is caused by the fact that he is completely at the mercy of the Cuban government and at the same time under pressure from his son's demand to return home.

As you can see, we have one foot in the door, so to speak and would like to be in a position to be able to go back to Cuba to attempt further pleadings with the father. In the presence of our grandson the Cuban Assistant to the Minister of Exterior gave us his word that we would be welcome in Cuba at any time and as often as we want to come. We also assured him that our government would let us come. So here is our problem, our passports were validated for one trip to Cuba only, we would like to know if you can help us to have our passports validated for Cuba again and preferably for more than one trip. We feel that for the first time ever that there is hope now with the situation as it stands. Our grandson has been given permission to write to us and if he were to convince us that we were needed there to facilitate his return we want to be there. We desperately need a passport for Richard, Jr. We have in our possession recent photos which we took of him in Cuba. Could you please help us again?

During one of our many conversations with Richard, Sr., we promised that we would not file charges against him, would lend him money, help him to get a job and would certainly not force our grandson who is a very mature 13 years of age, to leave his father unless he wished to do so. He said he didn't believe one word of it, however, we felt that in time he would. Which brings us to another request, could you please inquire as to his status with the army in the event that he does change his mind about coming back? What happens if he goes to another country? It would be ever so helpful to us to have definite knowledge of this. We need all the bargaining power available to try to persuade him. He has given Richard, Jr., a pro-American ideology, however all of his education has been received in communistic schools and at his age we feel that it is of the utmost importance to try to facilitate his return.

Please accept our sincere congratulations on your recent appointment, which you so richly deserve. We're proud to have you as a friend. Again our humble thanks for all of your efforts throughout the years.

Sincerely,

Adley Lyday
Joe Lyday

Adley and Joe Lyday
4149 Ferndale
Port Arthur, Texas 77640

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The Director of Central Intelligence
Honorable George Bush
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505



1051 Houston Avenue
Port Arthur, Texas 77640

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION	CLASS.
01. Report	Report on Efforts of the Lydays to see their Grandson (5 pp.)	4/2/76	C	S
COLLECTION				
George Bush Personal Papers China File Subject File				
FILE LOCATION				
Major Pearce		OA/ID Number	Date Closed 10/27/99	

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- F-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

September 26, 1974

The Honorable George Bush
U.S. Ambassador to China
Department of State
Room 6208
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ambassador Bush:

We feel very remiss in having so understated that which you have accomplished for us in the enclosed letter, therefore we hasten to explain.

When you referred us to the "Wardens" of the Canadian Legation who were vacationing in Niagara Falls from Cuba, we immediately telephoned them to try to arrange a meeting. They were definitely not receptive to the idea, but eventually agreed to do so. My daughter Sandra, my wife and I went to meet them. They were courteous, but still we sensed some hostility, which we attributed to the fact that Mr. Warden was suppose to have been a friend of Major Pearce's in Cuba. They listened very carefully to our story and were seemingly a little more sympathetic afterwards. A few days later they returned to Cuba for the remainder of their assignment. We heard nothing from them during this time but kept abreast of them through the Canadian Embassy.

Upon their return home to Ottawa from Cuba we again contacted them by phone and letters and eventually the three of us went up to visit. This time they were receptive, warm and gracious, making all the necessary arrangements for us, and inviting us to their home for dinner and to meet the rest of their lovely family. It was at this time, that we heard the first news and received the first pictures of our son and grandson since he had been taken from us. That evening Mr. and Mrs. Warden spoke to us of Richard, Sr. and their children, having been playmates of Richard, Jr., spoke of him for hours.

LZ file
JK
A. W. Mason
Pearce
A. W. Pearce
Major Pearce

We visited with them daily during our stay. During the last few hours of our last visit together, we were astounded to discover that Mrs. Warden is a first cousin to the wife of Dr. Walter Pearce, brother of Richard, Sr. They were under the impression that we knew all along - we didn't. Do you? Somehow we feel that you don't. We had hoped to arrange a meeting with you and your lovely, sympathetic wife, in order to thank you in person and to fill you in with all the details - there are many. Richard, Sr. does not know that we and the Wardens know each other.

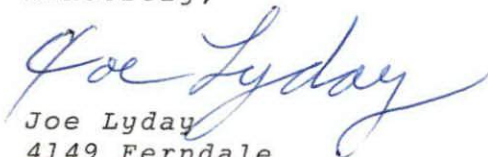
Since then we and the Wardens have become friends. We keep in touch always. They are in contact with Richard, Sr. in Cuba and pass on all the news of Little Richard. They say he would never again speak to them if he knew it. Lately they sent us a recent photograph of him. We thank you for making this possible. You have our undying gratitude. We look forward to the day that we will be at liberty to publicly give credit to you.

While Dr. James B. Donovan was alive and working on the case, vital information in writing passed on to the State Department by us was inadvertantly admittedly passed on to the wrong party, very possibly causing us to lose the best chance we ever had of facilitating the boy's return. For that reason, because we greatly fear the loss of the only contact with Little Richard which we've ever had, in the enclosed letter we deliberately omitted this information which is such a credit to you.

We shall of course abide by any decision you make regarding this matter, and will cooperate to the fullest with whomever you recommend.

Looking forward to seeing you next week at your convenience. I will be stopping at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, prior to coming to Washington.

Sincerely,



Joe Lyday
4149 Ferndale
Port Arthur, Texas

77640