

Auckland, 03/08/92

Dear Harold,

Thank YOU yet again for another long and very interesting letter. I am more grateful than I know how to say. I feel most privileged that you should devote such of your valuable time to this correspondence with me.

Your letter came a week ago but it has taken me all of that time to get in touch with Jenny Wheeler at the "Sunday Star". Well, I'll start with that bit of news first. Jenny says she is unable to use anything from you that deals primarily with Oliver Stone and/or the background to the movie "JFK". I have to agree with her, the movie was a flop in New Zealand and there would be little interest among readers in anything that had the movie "JFK" as a main topic.

Jenny Wheeler is keen to have something from you though and she sounded more positive than when I first spoke to her. I would not be at all surprised if she has run your name through their computer to get a list of your published material or maybe she used some other means of getting a profile on you.

She kept coming back to the one demand, "it has to have a good news angle". She said one thing that comes to mind is just how the JFK assassination may figure in the lead up to the 1992 Presidential election. Do either Clinton or Bush have clear positions on this matter? Have either candidates said anything in connection with the release of still restricted material? Is there any pressure coming from the electorate for the assassination of JFK to be re-opened?

I hope that you can include something along these lines as a 'news angle'. Jenny realises that the story will go into the elementary aspects of the assassination and its aftermath, but she wants a good headline she can hang the story on. And the headline has to be something 'newsy' and topical. As an old newspaper person yourself, you will already know all of these things. Another thought- if the Presidential election is not an easy angle for you, you could still do a general background on what you have gained access to through the FOI Act so far and what you know is still not released, and just what sort of documents are these that are STILL locked away, now almost thirty years after the assassination. And whose documents are they, I mean with which agency of the government did they originate? Who still wants these documents hidden away?

As far as editing anything you have written, I would be more than happy to do it for you. Do you have a FAX machine? I do not have one myself (it is amazing how many people these days

ask me that question, "do you have a FAX?") but I can send you documents by any one of the places here who sell FAX services, or I could use the FAX at my school. In any case, it would be possible for me get copy of the edited story back to you quickly for checking if you have a FAX machine there at your home.

You know I am reading my way through a long list of books I found in the Auckland library, and I must say I have been disappointed by the most recent lot. The first was "Act of Treason" by Mark North. I had high hopes of this before I read it; it is a recent book (published 1991) and I imagined it would have shown the fruit of years of research into J. Edgar Hoover and his role in the FBI. But it did nothing for me. Mark North started with a premise that he assumed in the book from start to finish, and as far as I could see he made little effort to prove his basic position (that the assassination was initiated by Marcello and the Mafia, and that Hoover was a willing accomplice after the fact, orchestrating the cover up to consolidate his buddy Johnson's place in the White House, and thereby to secure his own continued position as Director of the FBI).

My next title from the library was one of the very oldest available, "The Death of a President", by William Manchester. This reads like pages from the social column of a popular daily newspaper. I have only looked at small parts of this so far, and may not even get around to reading it fully.

The last book I have read lately is a paperback version of "JFK, Conspiracy of Silence" by Charles M. Crenshaw, sent down to me by a friend who lives in Seattle. This was quite a surprising book too, apart from the few key episodes that Crenshaw was personally involved in at Parkland Hospital, the book is a unsubstantiated summary of events over the few days around the time of the assassination written by two other men, Jens Hansen and Gary Shaw. Maybe you will know these two names? There are a few extraordinary claims made in this narrative, which I am sure you will be aware of. The book has a few photos allegedly taken of JFK during the autopsy, and the one showing an apparently intact right front hemisphere of the head is branded as a fake. It occurs to me that a photo such as this, a three quarter angle front view, printed back to front would create just such a wrong impression. In such a photo the damaged area of the skull would be out of sight on the obscured and reversed side of the head.

It is getting to be a habit, but I cannot stop myself taxing you with one more question- has there ever been any effort to get statements from the Police Officers and others in the Dallas Police Station who were present at the interrogation of Oswald? Surely Oswald must have said some things that would throw light on his role in the whole affair. If he was the figure shown standing in the doorway of the TSB building in

the Altgens photo, he must have been aware of the shots fired in Dealey Plaza and knew presumably that the President had probably been hit. Assuming this to be the case, his later actions can only mean that he had something to do that was of more importance and significance ^(to him) than the events he had just witnessed in Dealey Plaza. Did he not hint to anyone in the Police Station that he had been standing on the front steps? Or were the interrogations so much more to do with the Tippit killing that the assassination of the President was just a secondary matter? It strikes me that after twelve hours of interrogation, even with no official record, today we still know very little of what Oswald said in these interrogation sessions.

I hope you are feeling well and that you are getting lots of work done. How is your new book coming along? Are you having that good summer weather yet? How incredible that you have been married nearly as long as I have been alive. My son will be four next January, it is hard to believe these four years have passed like this. Our daughter Emma had her eleventh birthday a week ago. Do you have any children?

Fidel Castro must know many things that are connected to the assassination, so many things seem to involve Cuba and Cubans. Surely Castro's intelligence service must have infiltrated the anti-Castro groups that were operating in the USA back in the early 1960's. I wonder why he has been silent all these years? And what Castro knew the KGB must also have known. I think you said that the Russians had only opened one small part of their file on Oswald?

One last thing, thank you for putting an index in your books. Now that I am starting to go back over them, I find the index invaluable. It must have taken you a good while to do it.

I look forward to hearing back from you again soon.

With very best wishes,

Yours,
Dad