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Auckland, 28/03/93

Dear Harold

Many thanks for your last letter of 8th March. I am very glad you liked the calender. I too liked the photos. There are many beautiful places in New Zealand, wilderness places. With a human population of only 3.45 million we are fortunate that so much land remains in its undeveloped state.

You know, my appreciation of the events of 22/11/63, and its aftermath, continues to grow. I do not know if it will ever end, the implications are so vast. (I wonder if this is why you so graciously keep writing to me, helping me to a deeper and truer understanding of the import of the assassination.)

I have had this letter in my head for week or more, carrying it around and thinking it through in odd moments. I hope I can retrieve enough of it tonight to share these thoughts with you that have been germinating in my mind these past weeks.

At first, that is when I started writing to you, I thought that nearly everything to do with Oswald's recent history must have some significance in the light of what had happened on the 22nd of November 1963. For instance I thought many of the things that had happened earlier in New Orleans could be connected to later events in Dallas. And I imagined that Oswald and his job in the Texas School Book Depository must all have been planned. Now I realise there may have been many others like Oswald in Dallas, also known to the FBI and the CIA or to the Military Intelligence agencies (and their friends). Because of the 'cover' these agents were working under, they were ideal for framing. The conspirators may have been opportunists, looking around for the most likely person to frame. However, at some stage Oswald must have seemed to them the best prospect, and deliberately 'set up' from that time. When do you think he was likely to have been 'set up'? Before he took the job in the TSBD? Before his trip to Mexico City? Before he left New Orleans?

And what of surveillance of US mail in Dallas by the Treasury? This practice may well have been commonplace in all large (or small) cities in the USA at that time. It could be completely incidental to possible interception of Oswald's mail, such as the Italian carbine. There could even have been more than one government agency intercepting mail in Dallas at that time.

Just how many agents did the FBI have in Dallas? Or the CIA for that matter, did they have agents working in the Dallas area? Was Oswald really so unique? I mean unique in the sense that he appeared to be a Marxist or a leftist when he was really only using that image as a cover to try to infiltrate leftist organisations for one of the intelligence agencies.

You see, I have trouble gauging the extent of the surveillance by the FBI in the USA back in the sixties. Was it really as all pervasive as I am beginning to believe it was? This makes it all the more unlikely that Hoover could have been unaware of what was being planned for Dallas, especially as people outside of the services, i.e. civilians not used to military discipline and control, were being involved. The most obvious civilian, i.e. somebody not in fulltime employment with one or more of the government agencies, was Jack Ruby.

Harold, I have not asked you about Jack Ruby before. What do you know of him? What were his likely invisible connections? Mafia? The CIA? The FBI? The Dallas Police? Is there anything in Ruby's background that gives any clue to what his possible connections may have been? In some of the books I read last year there was a case made for a Mafia or some other underworld connection. I have seen that short TV clip where Ruby says something about people in high places being behind his actions and presumably the assassination of JFK (this was shown in Nigel Turner's production). Do you think this is significant? It has always struck me as rather incredible that Ruby knew enough about the politics of anti-Castro Cuban exile groups and the Fair Play for Cuba people to be able to correct the question about Oswald's involvement with Cuban politics put by a reporter at the night-time briefing in the Dallas Police Station. Very few people would be so aware as this. It almost makes me believe Ruby must have known much more about Oswald than he needed to if his role was merely to kill him.

My thoughts over the past weeks that I intended putting into this letter were mostly to do with the almost incalculable power of the right (as opposed to the left) in the USA. How do you measure such power and influence? By accepting that some invisible grouping under the umbrella of the right, and sure of its protection if not its prior blessing, assassinated JFK and turned the foreign policy of the country towards fighting a war in SE Asia. And this is just one part of it, the known part. What else was done that we outsiders know nothing of? Or am I being too fanciful? The alternative to believing Oswald the lone nut is to follow the implications of a conspiracy and an official coverup to their logical conclusions..... That is where I have been mentally for the past couple of weeks. It makes me wonder about so many things.

How many books did you write with the title "Post Mortem"? I have only the one, but I see the list of your titles in "Frame-Up" shows a second volume. Do you have a spare copy?

I am looking forward to being able to read your new book, very much so. Tell me, do you think if I sent money to cover the cost of photocopying and postage that I could have a copy of the draft manuscript? I realise that it may be very difficult for you to do this, but if you were to agree then maybe Dave Wrone could have the MS copied and sent to me?

I read with some surprise the story of how the author of "High Treason" has flipped out as you put it. The world is peopled with some very strange types, and I can imagine what must have happened when somebody like this person you describe got loose among the fact and fancy and thousands of known and unknown sides to this business, and then got lost presumably.

I see from your letter that you go to Baltimore on the 2nd of April for your preliminary appointment with John Hopkins Hospital. I hope eveything goes well for you.

It is late at nght and I must soon be off to bed. Thank you once again for the wonderful gift of your letters. I value our correspondence very much. I look forward to meeting you next year if my projected trip to North America and Europe comes off. I have no plans yet, just a desire to do the trip. It will depend in large part on how the royalties from the two books come in this year and next.

With love and best wishes to  
you and your wife,

Paul