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Professor David Wrone
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Copy for
Harold
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Dear David Wrone

You will know of me already through our mutual friend, Harold Weisberg. I have exchanged letters with Harold going on for two and a half years now. I feel very privileged to receive the benefits of Harold's knowledge and experience, and I have learnt a lot from him through our considerable correspondence. I know Harold has vouched for my bona fides, a necessary prerequisite given the request I am about to make of you.

I am putting together a proposal to teach a course dealing with the assassination of John F. Kennedy at the Centre of Continuing Education at the University of Auckland. To help in setting out a course outline I would be most grateful to receive anything and everything you are able to send me on teaching the assassination and its aftermath. I know very little of what it is you teach, but Harold has intimated that you do teach some undergraduate papers related to the JFK assassination.

I would be especially happy to receive such as your own course outline, any lecture notes, any student handouts you use, bibliographies, lists of resource material, and copies of original documents or other archival material which are relevant to the main course topics.

I have already received from Dr Gerald McKnight the set of notes and photocopied documents he hands to students taking his "Politics of Assassination Course" at Hood College. This has been a big help in beginning to plan the parts of my own course proposal.

I realise that the type of assistance I am asking for will put you to some personal expense, photocopying and postage for example. I shall reimburse you for all such expense. I shall of course share with you whatever form and content my own course may take, assuming the University's Board of Studies agrees to approve it for 1995. (It will probably only be a forty hour course, run through the Centre's night classes.)

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For your information I enclose a copy of a review I had in "The New Zealand Herald" of 12th March of books by Gerald Posner, Robert Groden and Nigel Hamilton. This paper in its Saturday edition is the largest selling newspaper in New Zealand, with a circulation of around 300,000 copies. I was pleased to be able to show a very different view of Posner's book to what has been published so far in NZ. Every other review I have seen of his book in the NZ press was glowing with praise for this 'brilliantly researched work'. You will be aware of the warm reception Posner seems to have received worldwide. I saw nothing but uncritical acclaim for his book when I was in Australia last year. It is quite extraordinary, so much space given to reviewing this book and so much praise accorded it.

I find Robert Groden's book a great disappointment. I have not read any of his earlier writing but I knew he was held by many to be expert in the field of analysing photos connected with the assassination. Frankly, I cannot follow many parts of his book, it is beyond my knowledge to understand even what it is he is trying to prove in some instances.

Well, I hope you will be able to see your way clear to sending me the material you use with your classes.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. With best wishes and greetings from New Zealand.

Yours faithfully

Dal McGuirk

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