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File w/ Marina

For John Crowdsen - please forward

3/13/79

Dear John,

In one of my many FOIA suits the Times has never mentioned I obtained all the FBIHQ records from these files: 62-109060, on the assassination investigation; 62-109060, on Commission relations, etc; and 105-92555, on Oswald. Two records from the first are enclosed.

Of course I've obtained many other records, probably about a quarter of a million pages by now. Some of their internal records relating to your coziness with them would not make you proud. But I guess that is a price to be paid. Many did.

Katzenbach's role throughout that period and later as a Congressional witness is despicable. He is a master of untruth, rivaling some FBISA's I know in faulty recollection. Here he was kissing the ass of the FBI that continues to detest him. And untruthful.

Also untruthful are the Commission finks you checked with, except for Ball, who was less than fully truthful.

The bugging of the hotel was the Willard, where Marina was registered under the name of the then Secret Service Inspector Tom Kelley, later Assistant Director, Protective research, since retired. The FBI did do it and they caught her laying her then business manager, Martin. This gave the FBI much blackmail, against the Secret Service, which made the deal to involve Marina with Martin when he managed the Lim of the Six Flags, and against Marina. I have a completely separate and quite explicit case of the FBI's immediate blackmailing of Marina, almost before her tears stopped flowing. (If you want this stop off next time you are in Washington.)

The actual surveillances of Marina were pretty complete. In addition to bugs and tapes they had her under physical surveillance and kept tabs on her through informants who have to have been her few friends/associates. My first recollections of the post-Willard surveillances have them beginning once she gotarren to relieve her from Secret Service custody, which was about early February 1964.

Aside from blackmailing her into changing her story completely, which they did through threat of deportation, the FBI had treated Marina pretty badly. I have records of theirs in which they report her sexual dreams and fancies, her explanation of her relationship with Martin (justified because she thought he was sterile and she'd not conceive), even her request of a woman friend for a drug that would repress her dreams or desires. I've used some of these in court records, FOIA cases, without attracting any attention to them. (As you know reporters rarely read court records. They prefer sources.) All of this was the fruit of surveillances.

First the FBI froze the Secret Service out of its interviews with Marina, while she was in Secret Service custody. About first week. They used INS. My encapsulation of this in my first (1965) book is entirely accurate but greatly understated. It continues to be understated in my second (1966).

The Secret Service used the carrot - they'd make her rich. The FBI used the stick. Actually she was milked heavily, a total of 35% off the top, with a 10% to her brother-in-law Robert to keep her content and to help freeze Ruth Paine out. Ruth was Marina's only possible outside contact. She tried to reach Marina through the ACLU but by then it was too late.

There may be some truth to the effort to blame the safely-dead Warren, but if there is any it is greatly exaggerated. Rankin, who was close to the FBI and was worked in over Warren's choice of Warren Olney, terrified the Commission. I got this also through FOIA, when I got the executive session transcripts. I have all but one now and an back in district court on remand on that one, which will make a sordid Gerald Ford story if I got it. Rankin conned the old geezers and the compliant Ford into believing that if they did not keep close watch on Marina she'd cross the border into Mexico. Really?

However, the FBI had the notion that the Russians would be using her or that she might have some connection with them. Please excuse the haste and the typos. Sincerely,