

(Mrs.) Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York City 10014

11 September 1964

Mr. Mark Lane
Citizens' Committee
of Inquiry
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10010

Dear Mr. Lane,

On November 22nd, 1963 at 2:30 p.m. New York time I predicted to colleagues in my office that a pro-Castro sympathizer and/or a Communist would be charged with the assassination of the President. When the news came a few hours later of the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald, I was astonished at the precision of my prediction and filled with the strongest scepticism. As a result, I became a student of the Oswald case from the very first day. I have read your Brief, of course, as well as the Buchanan and Joesten books (both of which I have indexed), and I have attended two of your lectures. Last month I travelled in Europe and was able to confirm for myself that, indeed, no one outside the United States entertains the slightest belief in the official story that Oswald, acting alone, committed this crime. To complete this introduction before proceeding to the specific matters which motivate this letter, I should add that I am employed as an External Relations Officer at the United Nations but that my interest in the Oswald case is strictly personal and individual and in no way linked with my professional capacity.

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1. Reprint of the Bertrand Russell Article I appreciated very much the opportunity to read this reprint, which was sent to me by the Citizens' Committee. A number of my friends would, I am sure, be equally interested. I am enclosing a list of their names and addresses and would be grateful if reprints are mailed to them. I am enclosing also a check for \$5.00 as a contribution to the Committee's work.

2. Paraffin Test No doubt you are aware already of the comments made last night by "The Amazing Randi" on WOR, "refuting" your evidence with respect to the negative results of the paraffin test of Oswald's face. I am dumbfounded at the further leak from the Warren Commission alleging, after a lapse of ten months, that the test in fact was positive —dumbfounded that the Warren Commission should expect any student of this case to place any credence whatever in this belated "evidence" which must be regarded, as to its origin and motivation, as most highly suspect. I trust that you will use the first opportunity, on the same radio program, to comment on this latest outrage.

3. Fate of Witnesses Lord Russell in his article alludes to the strange disappearances or death of witnesses. In your lecture on the 20th of July, which I attended, you related to the audience the shocking "accident" which befell the brother of Mrs. Helen Markham in the Dallas jail. Despite my confidence in your reliability and accuracy, I must admit that I found it an almost incredible story. I have seen no reference anywhere, not even in the National Guardian, to this astounding and sinister development in the case. If your story of what happened to Mrs. Markham's brother is true, and if it is regarded together with the "suicide" in the same Dallas jail of Betty Mooney McDonald, the disappearance of her boy-friend, and the continued imposition of secluded custody over Marina Oswald---to say nothing about the public murder of Oswald himself in the Dallas police station---how can even a village idiot continue to accept the thesis that Oswald, acting alone, committed this profoundly significant political crime?

I would be grateful if you would take the trouble to confirm and if possible to document your account of the arrest of Mrs. Markham's brother and his subsequent "accident," and if you would also indicate his present whereabouts and condition, if these are known. I would be interested also in any comments you may have on the transcript of the interview with Jack Ruby conducted by Justice Warren and others from the Warren Commission; the surprising visit to the scene of the assassination on the weekend of the 5th of September by Senators Cooper and Russell; their further questioning of Marina Oswald; and the comments to the press by Senator Russell to the effect that the case was not as simple as it appeared to be all along and that the report of the Warren Commission would contain a number of surprises.

I realize that demands on your time are very great and that you may not be in a position to reply, soon or at length, to this letter. I shall understand if that proves to be the case. In closing, I should like to emphasize my personal gratitude for the vast amount of information which you have made available and my warm support for your efforts to bring the truth to light, in the face of the great odds and the tremendous barriers set up by the Establishment. Personally, I have not the smallest doubt that the truth is being concealed, at all costs, by a deliberate and organized policy and with considerable desperation. The very desperation of these efforts to sell to the people of the country and the world a story which refuses to accommodate the facts, however often they are revised, must make one wonder and suspect that the truth is even more appalling, terrible and dangerous than all the perversions to which it is being subjected.

Sincerely yours,

SYLVIA MEAGHER