

Berkeley, CA
February 7, 1976

Mr. Robert Bernstein
Random House
201 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Bernstein,

We are writing to confirm some of the crucial elements expressed in our recent telephone conversation. As before, we wish to do nothing to delay further the publication of our book. The deletion required by your counsel in response to David Belin's threats remains regrettable in our view, but we have never sought to compel you to publish the sentence against the advice of your counsel, nor have we ever had any interest in calling attention to any disagreements between ourselves and Random House which could be exploited by Mr. Belin. Although Sylvia Meagher's question appeared to us to be legitimate and well-grounded, we are not lawyers and will not challenge your lawyers' opinion on this matter or your right to be guided by that opinion.

Our sole concern of principle is that the public not be misinformed as to the reasons for the deletion. The point is simply to emphasize -- in response to any inquiry from the press, fellow assassination critics, or the general public -- that the deletion in question was not a routine exercise of editorial judgment or discretion. On the contrary, it occurred in response to Mr. Belin's threatened suit as expressed directly to your counsel, Mr. G. E. Hollingsworth.

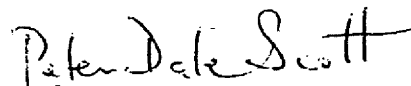
The extent to which you or your lawyers consider it wise to discuss publicly the precise legal reasoning behind the deletion -- in particular the sentence's change in status when Mr. Belin put you on notice as to his objections -- is your decision, not ours. We are happy to refer the press to you directly for comment on the technical legal points. In response to non-technical questions, we will focus our comments on Belin's attempt to cover up and misrepresent this whole controversy. As you know, Mr. Belin's letters of January 12 contain statements about Ms. Meagher's article which are simply wrong. For example, she does refer to Secret Service Document 491, which Mr. Belin claims she omitted from the record. His charge that the whole article is libelous is a lame attempt to suppress a cogent argument which we stand behind. Since the factual record presented in

Ms. Meagher's article remains intact and her other conclusory statements are unedited, we feel that the reader will have no difficulty in deciding whether the truth was Mr. Belin's only goal (as he contends in his reply to Ms. Meagher).

As for your proposed publisher's statement, only one sentence concerns us directly, and we agree that the most accurate phrasing is as follows: "This deletion was made by Random House on advice of counsel and after extensive consultation with the anthologists" We have no disagreement with the position attributed to Sylvia Meagher in the publisher's statement, so if you preferred, you could include us along with her in the last sentence. It would then read, "Ms. Meagher and the editors . . . nevertheless have permitted Random House to publish with the questioned sentence deleted."

The book's publication will itself be the most substantive reply to Mr. Belin's attempted censorship. We look forward to having the books in hand very soon and hope, in common effort with Random House, to see that they reach the widest possible audience.

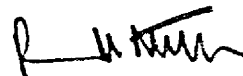
Yours sincerely,



Peter Dale Scott



Paul L. Hoch



Russell Stetler

cc: Jason Epstein
Susan Bolotin