

May 19, 1976

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for your letter of the 17th. ~~From~~ Enclosed are my CIA notes and subject guide. Apparently the CIA has just released some more material, which I haven't seen. According to press reports, they suggest one reason why it might be difficult to pin the rap on Fidel. Apparently the CIA did a memo on what Castro knew about the plots against him, concluding that he probably didn't know much - i.e., didn't know the CIA was behind all the activity. This sounds implausible, but it would be difficult for the CIA to admit that they had kept up the plotting when Castro presumably knew about it. In the other direction, there were 2 important articles by George Crile in the Washington Post (5/2 ~~and~~ and 5/16, p. C1; I can send them) which argue that Castro must ~~have~~ have known a lot - e.g., about AM/LASH (Cubela), whose actions would have been easy for Castro to learn about even if he hadn't been a double agent all along. Anyhow, the CIA is in a bit of a bind. This might account for the rather peculiar thrust of the Rocca memo (Item 451), namely that Oswald might have read about Castro's warning in the paper. I had assumed that this focus was ~~merely~~ merely a quirk of Belin's, but there may be more to it.

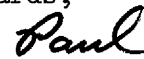
The Schweiker thing looks less discouraging than it did on the basis of the first reports. I gather that the NYT had only a small story on Friday (which was, according to Jerry, not in the late editions at all!), but it was front-page news out here - including Schweiker's followup, clearly distinguishing his position from Hart's and saying that the CIA and FBI both "lied" to the WC. I mentioned to Random House that we have a unique opportunity now for a bit of publicity - especially given what Schweiker wrote for your book - but I don't expect them to do anything. They have yet to even send us any of the reviews, including an allegedly favorable ~~one~~ one in the Chicago Tribune over a month ago. I am also perplexed that they have not yet put any ads in NY Review, Nation, or New Republic - all of which seem like prime candidates.

I mentioned your name to Corliss Lamont as a local source of expertise. I wrote to him after his small article in the Nation on his FBI file, and he met with me and Russ (who had worked with him in the ECLC ten years ago) in S.F. on his way to China. He has also talked with Harold. He seems quite interested in the use of his pamphlet, the FBI's file on Oswald, etc. He's a quite interesting person, and it certainly wouldn't hurt to get him turned on to the case.

Also enclosed is a response to Bethell's Washington Monthly piece. I left out a rebuttal of his silly comments on the quality of the FBI investigation, especially in New Orleans. I doubt that any of this will get printed, especially ~~since~~ since the letter is so late, but it might come in handy. (I have sent Anson a copy.)

I'll be looking for the book-of-the-month club news; that should be helpful. Jerry told me that Roffman's book is an alternate selection for the Playboy club, with the main ~~selection~~ selection being "Betrayal." Amazing!

Regards,



PLH