

3 October 1968

Dear David, (Lifton)

Thanks for the clipping from the Baltimore Sun. This is completely new to me--the alleged UN file on Oswald. I am sure there is no substance to it, if only on the basis of what is firmly known about LHO's whereabouts between 1959 and 1963. He was in New York during those years for one period of about 24 hours.

The man who was in charge of UN security guards for many years and during 1963 is now, unfortunately, deceased. I had a cordial nodding acquaintance with him, since he handled space and other facilities for our office, but was well aware that he was an ex-FBI or state police type who had almost certainly placed FBI/CIA watchdogs on the staff of guards. I was also a witness to his cordiality toward Senator Joseph McCarthy when he escorted him and his entourage during their visit to UN, in 1953 if memory serves.

I mention this because it suggests that certain UN "guards" may deliberately have floated the story on Oswald to advance belief in his pro-Castro proclivities. However, it is more probable that the story resulted from a genuine mistake in identification---after all, a great many people claimed encounters with LHO which could not have occurred, in many of the instances concerned, and some of those claims seem to have been made in good faith. I will look for an opportunity to check into this allegation that Oswald was known to the UN guards, although it may not be possible to get anything since I do not know the present directorate.

One thing comes to mind: There were some stories immediately after 11/22/63 to the effect that LHO had roomed with a local character on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village, but this man turned out to be a bizarre character of some kind and a chronic confabulator. (I rely on rather dim recollection here, as it would take some time to dig into my newspaper files for the details.) I think I found one reference to this man in the 26 volumes and included that in the Subject Index, section on "supplementary name index." His name was something like "Yves L'Andez" (again, I rely on memory, since I don't have the Subject Index at hand). The guards may have remembered "Yves," who apparently bore some resemblance to LHO.

Turning to other subjects: How is your book going? As I had told you, I wrote a review of it which Arnoni thought was too long. Just then, his current financial agonies erupted, and he became frantically involved in raising funds to meet his enormous deficit and literally to save TMO's continued existence. I haven't dared mention the review, or even an important article by a new name which I had forwarded to Arnoni at the author's request and which I fervently hope he will publish, because his sole concern now is just to keep the magazine going. I am certainly alarmed at the prospect that TMO may become defunct, and will ask him about the two articles only once it is clear that the financial crisis has been overcome.

Do you know anything about a man named Edward Horsey? About six or eight months ago, he contacted Thompson with some cock-and-bull story (as it turned out), presenting himself as a full-fledged "critic" and having established contact with Garrison as well as various others such as Salandria, Penn Jones, etc. Horsey is from Kalamazoo, Michigan. He called me once, I think early this year, and I was struck by the readiness with which he agreed with everything I said --which I regard with suspicion. I don't really remember clearly why he called or what we covered in the conversation, but he then dropped out of the picture completely.

Last Friday night, Horsey called again, from St. Petersburg. He now claims to be completely alienated from Garrison, also from Weisberg; and he told me an elaborate story about an alleged conversation he had with Robert Kennedy in April this year, on RFK's plane, during a campaign visit to Grand Rapids. Horsey alleges that RFK told him that he considered Garrison a phoney; but that he did not believe the WR and if elected would reopen the case. Trouble is, I don't believe Horsey...Especially when he distinctly gave me the impression Friday night that he was well-acquainted with Kerry Thornley, very concerned about him, and trying to interest various people in Thornley's predicament; but last night, Thornley (I have been misspelling it) called me, saying he had been contacted by Horsey, who gave my name as a person who would "vouch for" him!

I told Thornley that I didn't know Horsey from a hole in the wall and recommended that he give him short shrift.

Re: my article in the September TMO--It has provoked some angry and abusive letters from the Garrison handmaidens and true believers. One (which appears in the October TMO letters to the editor) nastily suggests that I am a profiteer who is hostile to Garrison for fear that the market for my books will dry up when he "solves" the case. Another, a five-page single-space letter sent to me personally, suggests that I have been "reached" or duped by agents of The Establishment. And so it goes. Apparently it requires first-hand experience of Garrison to produce disenchantment, at least for the majority of his feeble-minded devotees. I am glad you were able to talk sense to the "Truth Committee." What do you plan to do with the transcripts of Liebler and Ball?

I hope your book is going well. Savage commented that he was most struck by the Liebler memorandum, in its full text, because it showed that he had anticipated most of the major challenges of the WR by the critics and yet, despite his recognition and understanding of all the misrepresentation in the WR and of the pitiful frailty of the "case" against LHO, Liebler lent himself wholeheartedly to defense of the indefensible. It does not raise one's opinion of him.

All the best,