



Huron College, London, Ontario, Canada (N6G 1H3)

5 June 1979

Dear Ms. Meagher:

Many thanks for your letter of May 29 and the copy of your list of HSCA exhibits in the five volumes of public hearings. I'm returning the original list along with a few additional copies I ran off.

Over the past few days I've given more thought to compiling an index of HSCA material and have half-way made up my mind to tackle it. I must say that though I've had some experience indexing, I've never taken on anything as formidable as this. Then again, compared with the awesome chore you must have faced in dealing with the 27 volumes, the HSCA project would appear relatively small and comprehensible. At least the materials released thusfar have a coherent pattern to them.

About the only thing that gives me pause is the fact that I must be in Britain for the first few months of next year and possibly into the Spring. This would mean that indexing would have to slow to a near halt while I'm there.

But I think I'll make a start on the five volumes right now and see how it goes. My plan is to use your index of the 27 volumes as an initial guide, breaking the material down into subject headings followed by a subject and name index. I'd be grateful if I could draw upon your advice from time to time on problems that are bound to arise.

You mentioned, rightly, the need to have a thorough, comprehensive, and intimate knowledge of the evidence and the history of the case. Though I certainly can't pretend to have the grasp of the material that you do, I feel reasonably knowledgeable about most aspects of the investigation. For about five years now I've been involved in fairly sustained research. I'm thoroughly familiar with the secondary literature, I've read all the 27 volumes in addition to a good deal of the W.C. documents in the National Archives, and I've lectured on the case to numerous audiences in this area, including radio and television. I hope to publish more after the committee's report appears, but thusfar I've only done a couple of free-lance newspaper pieces. For what it's worth, I've enclosed a general one that appeared in a few papers around here last autumn. It's a background article on the opening of the committee's hearings which I tried to make as objective as I could.

I phoned the congressional desk of the G.P.O. last week and was told that as far as they now know, there will only be a one-volume report of around 600 pages. There seem to be no plans for any additional volumes of material, which I found surprising and disturbing. The publication date

is, of course, still unannounced but the person I spoke with guessed no earlier than July 1st. The AP story on the report in last Sunday's New York Times might be an indication that it will appear sooner.

Again, thanks for your letter and list. I'll be in touch as my work progresses.

Best regards,

Gary Owens

G.L. Owens