

21 January 1970

Mr. Whitney Joy
5809 East Rosewood St.
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Dear Mr. Joy,

As I recall, Robert Ruark died in England in the spring of 1965, some months after the appearance of his important critique of the ballistics and marksmanship evidence presented in the Warren Report. I remember clearly my feeling of shock and keen suspicion upon hearing the news of his death on a news broadcast, and the care with which I read subsequent newspaper and magazine reports on his demise. In the end, I became convinced that he had died of natural causes, culminating a fairly prolonged period of deteriorating physical health. To my knowledge, none of the critics has included Robert Ruark among the "suspicious deaths" which have been logged, especially by Penn Jones.

If you have access to The New York Times Index, I feel sure that you would find information on Ruark's death in the 1965 volume. The weather has been so bad in New York that I am reluctant to make a foray to the library to look up the obituary, especially when I knew that I was satisfied at the time of Ruark's death that it was due to natural causes.

I am sorry that your approaches to publishers have had such negative responses, but I am not surprised by the lack of interest. There is a general climate of pervasive indifference and even boredom with the whole question of the Warren Report, partly because of the enormous fiasco which culminated two years of grandiose and sensational charges by the New Orleans district attorney and, in my opinion, partly because of the numerous problems of the hour, especially the Vietnam quagmire and the tremendous unrest in the country, which is in deep trouble on almost every front. I must admit that I am pessimistic about the case being reopened in the foreseeable future, and pessimistic about the country in general.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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New York City 10014