

28 May 1977

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, NY 10014

Dear Mrs Meagher:

Thank you for being so gracious about my error. I do appreciate that. Yes, I sent a copy of my letter to (1) Morrow, (2) Abrams, (3) Adler.

I guess I am getting kick shy from dealing with assassination researchers. That is why I predicted you would be displeased with my approach in writings. Usually, my writings get jumped on for their rather lurid approach and broad-based assumption. My own feeling is that the average private citizen cares very little for the rules of evidence or the cleanliness of scholarship. I think an apt analogy would be the carefully prepared, documented and orderly courtroom evidence vs. the "smoking gun" of Watergate fame. The reason so much good research on the case is not published by commercial houses is not that they are part of a conspiracy--it is simply that many of these tomes are boring and dry, dealing in terms/jargon of trajectories, interior forensics and laws of physics. That's ho-hum time for most folks. Unhappily, America is a hyped-up society geared to the capsule, the color and the impact of action. That is why I write what I do. What good is knowing the truth, as a journalist, if no one except a few experts, reads what you write. That is why MIDNIGHT or ENQUIRER sells millions of copies a week, while HARPER'S or ATLANTIC struggle along.

Sorry--I didn't mean to drag out my soapbox or lecture.

My book? Well, I don't know. Each week I feel less and less like doing one. My publisher and I talked again only this week and I want to wait until Fall to publish as I feel a great deal can or cannot happen this summer. Washington people tell me the assassination business there is somewhat like a pressure cooker, with lots of spices being put in and leaked out. I will wait. Frankly, I think the bad guys won again. I hope it is too early and I am wrong. It is just a feeling I have. Maybe I am too much of a cynic.

Thank you again for your letter and your understanding. I hope we might someday meet. You seem to be what most people told me about you--a classy lady.

Cordially,

J. David Truby

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