

20 March 1978

Irwin

Dear Harry,

Thanks very much for your letter of the 14th, just received, and for the enclosures. I must admit that I was rocked by the photograph and inscriptions copied out of Oltmans' book. For about 14 years I have regarded that photo as highly suspect, as have many of the other critics. I have been told that the Canadian Defense Department recently analyzed the photo and first said that it was a fabrication, then retreated and said that it contained "anomalies". But assuming that the photo as published by Oltmans is really authentic, one must still ask questions about it: Why did De Mohrenschildt and his wife both fail to mention the photo to the Warren Commission? Why did Marina fail to mention the fact that she had inscribed a copy of the photo and that that copy was given to the De Mohrenschildts? Why did Epstein consider it necessary to authenticate Marina's handwriting on the back of the photo? What handwriting expert did he consult? On what basis was the handwriting analyzed by the expert? From the original? or from a copy?

My letter to "Harold" was indeed to Harold Weisberg. Harold intends to attack Epstein's book at every opportunity. I wonder if he is aware of this photo from Oltmans' book? I think I had better lend him the copy you sent me, for his information.

Yes, I did read the New York interview with Epstein, after which I then read the book (I did not bother to read the condensation in the Reader's Digest).

About the articles in the Sunday Mirror, I never received them. The clipping on Galvin is most interesting, not on its own merits but as an indication of still another possible attempt falsely to implicate Castro in the assassination—an attempt which began in earnest in 1975 in what I believe is a fall-back position held in readiness for the time when it was no longer possible to argue that Oswald was the lone assassin.

I believe that you had written me earlier that the BBC documentary would be aired in the USA. Did I misunderstand you? I would certainly like to see it, since as you know I find the thesis of a CIA/Cuban exile operation (with or without the Mafia) to have considerable credibility. Thanks for offering me the sound cassette but I will decline it with gratitude, because I have no apparatus for listening to it.

There is no special news here. I have had a number of calls from people who wanted to discuss Epstein's book in great detail, and then to prepare critiques or confrontations with him. A great silence continues to surround the House Committee; and I continue to expect an ultimate report that will more or less concur with the Warren Commission.

I am making a short visit to Israel next month but if anything important should come up before I leave, I will write you again. Meanwhile, all good wishes and renewed thanks.

Sincerely yours,

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