

28 May 1981

Dear Cyril,

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd. I had already learned, from both Jerry Peliceff and Bob Schmalzried, of the happy outcome of the trial. I was absolutely exhilarated by the news and called a few fellow-critics to let them know of your complete exoneration.

The death of my friend Elaine Cohen was a terrible blow. You met her once, although your memory of her, if any, will be very vague. It was at the NYU meetings on the assassinations, when Bob Ensen, Elaine, you and I went out for coffee and conversation. She was an exceptional person, a top-flight editor and writer in psychiatry and medicine, and a person who radiated wit and intelligence, who was my treasured and irreplaceable friend for 25 years.

Bob Schmalzried, too, is an exceptional person. I met him aboard the SS Retterdam, on a world cruise, where he was the art instructor. He is also most witty and intelligent, and a gifted painter who has done many lovely cityscapes of Pittsburgh. He was a marvelous companion as we sailed from port to port and explored each new place together.

I understand from Jones Harris that he had a pleasant conversation with you on the phone. Jones is a strange bird, addicted to the telephone, and a very sharp investigator. He is not very well-liked but I have a little soft spot for him, despite the fact that I disagree with him about virtually everything—assassinations, politics, human behavior, and many etceteras.

You no doubt possess the set of volumes on the JFK case issued by the HSCA but you may not be aware that I indexed them (see enclosed flyer). It was a horrendous job, even with considerable help from a co-author, and it is the last project of this kind that I expect to undertake. I no longer harbor the rage that liberated enough adrenalin and energy to produce my earlier work on the case. The rage has changed into disgust and utter discouragement, after seeing what Blakey & Co. produced. He and his cohorts were as bad as the Warren Commission, and in some respects even worse.

When you come to New York next, please be my guest for dinner and we will have a long talk.

Affectionately,