

20 October 1967

Dr. David Abrahamsen
1035 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10028

Dear Dr. Abrahamsen,

Thank you very much for your friendly letter of the 19th and the clarification of your views.

I should like to assure you that I did not intend any unfairness toward you and I greatly regret my clumsiness in creating such an impression. As you say, I have not read your paper, and I would have had no basis for equating your psychoanalytic evaluation of Oswald with that of anyone else in the field of psychiatry. My reference to the "doctrine of Oswald's lone-assassinship" referred only to the acceptance of the thesis that he was the "lone assassin" which is implicit in a search for psychological factors which corroborate his capacity for violence.

You will surely agree that the fact that Oswald was emotionally capable of carrying out a violent act becomes irrelevant if the material and circumstantial evidence in the homicides of which he has been accused establish his innocence, or a powerful presumption of his innocence. One may be potentially capable of committing violence without ever carrying out a violent act (sometimes, when I read such works as Dr. Hartogs' or Mr. Manchester's, I worry about my own capacity). Nor am I convinced by any means that Oswald's suicide attempt was more than a stratagem by which to prolong his stay in the Soviet Union, when all other attempts to secure an extension had failed. Marina Oswald apparently made a more serious attempt to end her own life than did Oswald (see LH 125, 2H 318, 335, and 11H 299). Perhaps, as you say, she really wanted to kill somebody else, and did that symbolically by tripping over herself with eagerness to incriminate her dead husband.

I hope that you will find time to read my book, the first copies of which have just arrived today and which I am told will be in the bookstores in a matter of days. It is titled Accessories After The Fact: The Warren Commission, The Authorities, and The Report (Bobbs-Merrill). I hope also that my clarification has removed any impression that I was intentionally unfair. With good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) Sylvia Meagher
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