

12 September 1970

Mr Robert Johnson
Belvedere Hotel Room 1613
319 West 48 Street
New York City 10036

Dear Bob,

The Epoca article has nothing to do with Oswald or the Dallas assassination as such. It deals with the man accused of having blown up a Milan bank, Valpreda by name, and questions the story that he acted alone. The author of the article suggests that Valpreda, like Oswald (in the author's view), was part of a conspiracy and that the other plotters in the bank bombing are escaping, as others who might have been shooting together with Oswald also escaped the reach of justice because of a dubious "lone assassin" finding.

There is no need whatever for you to defend or justify, to me or to anyone else, your continuing interest or involvement in the JFK assassination investigation. Until recently, I have always gone out of my way to encourage the interest of individuals and the public in general. That is why I have often been willing to spend time on the phone or in correspondence with interested persons, even when I could ill spare the time and energy.

Recently, however, I have become personally discouraged about the obsessive and unwholesome part the case is playing in the lives of a number of us, and in a somewhat maternal spirit I tried to point out to you how demoralizing and futile it could become in the long run. I have no doubt that you have done useful work in awakening others, and in any case you must make your own decisions, in terms of your own convictions and aims. You owe no explanations to me, and I am truly sorry if I created an impression to the contrary.

For myself, however, I am finding less and less time and energy for matters connected with the investigation. It seems more and more a dead end, and an arena for internecine war and childish hysteria. I hope that I have made a contribution of some lasting value, and that I can recognize the time to turn to other activities, in a less embittering setting. That is why I am reluctant to get involved with tapes or the like—at least, for the present time. I am simply overloaded with UN work and my leisure time seems to be shrinking to zero. I hope that you will understand and forgive me.

With all friendly good wishes,

Sincerely yours,