

19 January 1971

The Washington's Birthday Defense Committee
c/o Emmaus House
241 East 116 Street
New York, N.Y. 10029

Dear friends,

I enclose a small check (\$20.00) to symbolize my solidarity with the Fathers Berrigan and the others indicted in the "Kissinger plot" travesty—the latest victims to be singled out by J. Edgar Hoover and the forces of darkness which seem to control this wretched country.

The discussion of the indictments last night on Channel 13 television was illuminating, inspiring, and deeply saddening. Saddening, because the insane rush into the abyss which has now swept the Berrigans and their fellow-workers into disaster seemed not to be recognized by any of the participants in the discussion as having started in Dallas November 22, 1963.

On that day the nation began a plunge into warfare in Indochina and into repression and chaos at home, in which these obscene indictments became possible and indeed inevitable, and will be followed by worse. On that day a president was assassinated by unknown conspirators and an obscure, innocent man framed for the heinous crime and then himself executed. For seven years a few voices, my own among them, have pleaded and warned a country largely dead and indifferent that if that crying injustice was not reversed, justice itself would be imperilled and ultimately destroyed.

I wish profoundly that we had been wrong; but there are now many, many Oswalds—innocent men framed and ruined, imprisoned and destroyed, for dissent or for the supreme morality of opposing the evil Vietnam war with every means at their command. The Fathers Berrigan and their co-defendants, knowing that they have been falsely accused and cynically framed, now must understand that the same FBI and the same Establishment have done this same mischief to other men before them, among whom incontrovertible evidence places the murdered Lee Harvey Oswald, as documented in books and articles by myself and others.

We must all hope that it is not too late for justice to be done, to the good and great men and women now accused and for those before them. I send my fervent hopes for the vindication of the accused men and women, who are clearly the highest among us in goodness and courage.

May there be peace.

Sylvia Meagher
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