

5 August 1975

TO: Attorney for Robert Byron Watson

FROM: Kerry Wendell Thornley

SUBJECT: Allegations concerning a conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, my background regarding

Enclosed is some information which I hope will be self-explanatory.

To provide a fuller context for this information from the standpoint of my personal life and how I came to be interested in this matter, I wish to make note of the following:

- 1) in the spring of 1959 I knew Lee Harvey Oswald in the Marine Corps;
- 2) in the fall of 1959, after reading of Oswald's defection to the USSR, I began writing a novel with the main character based on Oswald and the final chapter dealing with my fictional hero's defection to the Soviet Union;
- 3) in 1961 I went to New Orleans where I wrote the chapters to the book as separate short stories and tried to sell these to magazines, and then combined the stories into a rather disunified novel draft which I was unable to sell to a publisher;
- 4) the period of time I was in New Orleans began in February of 1961 and ended in December of 1964, excepting the summer of 1963 which I spent in California, returning to New Orleans in late summer by way of Mexico City;
- 5) during the entire period of my New Orleans residence I was a libertarian capitalist admirer of Ayn Rand, politically, and was therefore extremely anti-JFK, and I was always very outspoken about my feelings;
- 6) when JFK was murdered, and then when Lee Oswald was accused of pulling the trigger, and then when it turned out that Oswald and I had just missed being in Mexico City at the same time that summer and that we actually had been in New Orleans at the same time (in Sept. of '63 I think), I came to feel things were getting a little weird for me;
- 7) in April of 1964 I testified for the Warren Commission on my acquaintance with Oswald in the Marines;
- 8) in 1968 District Attorney Jim Garrison subpoenaed me to testify before his Grand Jury investigation of the JFK murder, after publically accusing me of being involved therein as a CIA employee;
- 9) against the advice of several attorneys I complied with Garrison's subpoena and even went to his office a day early to try to clear myself, only to find that his assistants had compiled a list of about 150 coincidences tying me in with Garrison's assassination conspiracy theory;
- 10) Garrison wound up charging me with perjury for my denial that I had seen Lee Oswald in New Orleans in 1963 (which I had not), but the case never came to trial;
- 11) ever since then I have been trying very hard to figure out how I was framed and used as a decoy to sidetrack an investigation of the JFK murder.