

21 August 1975

Dear Mark Allen,

Your letter of 18 June 1975 arrived while I was hospitalized for acute asthma. Upon leaving the hospital, I went directly to Fire Island, from which I returned only four days ago. I hope that this will explain my very long delay in replying your letter and that you will realize that no discourtesy was intended.

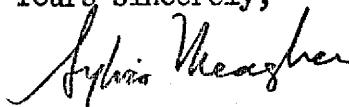
Upon returning to my office, I found a two months' backlog waiting for me, and a very heavy program of current work. With that burden, and in the light of the shakiness of my health this year, I find myself compelled to exclude or to hold to an absolute minimum any further work on the assassination.

I am truly reluctant to be negative about your request to help with a final brief and/or a bill of particulars. But I just do not see where I would find the time or the energy to undertake what must be a very detailed, responsible, and meticulous document. I can only tell you that everything that I know about the case (in terms of my own personal research) is available in print—in Accessories, the Subject Index, and magazine articles. I hope that you and your colleagues will draw on those sources, among others.

Incidentally, I had a phonecall recently from Senator Schweiker's office, where Accessories had just been read and my Subject Index was being sought. If you have not already approached the Senator or his aides, it might be a fruitful avenue.

With regret for my delayed reply and my inability to participate more closely in your efforts,

Yours sincerely,



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