

January 7, 1967

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th Street
New York, New York 10014

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

I have been very remiss in failing to answer your kind letters, and unfortunately many others, that came in during The Times' Warren project. Let me apologize. Please don't think that I wasn't grateful for your thought and for the chance to have your analyses and leads on various points.

Regrettably the project has been broken off without any windup story, at least until Harrison Salisbury, who was in charge, gets back from North Vietnam. We had some spot news stories come out of it, including the story you wrote about on Dr. Boswell, but there was considerable effort beyond those.

While Dr. Boswell, in talking to me, had said the autopsy photographs and X-rays by themselves wouldn't settle the dispute over the path of the bullet from the base of the back of the neck, he insisted the interpretations during the autopsy were sound. Dr. Humes has never commented since that story, so far as I know; he would not talk with our Washington bureau which was supposed to follow up on the surgeons.

As to your thought about the tissue samples, there were sections taken for microscopic examination, according to the supplemental autopsy report, and these included the area of contusion on the right upper lung layers which the surgeons interpreted as indicating the missile path. This is Commission Exhibit 391, which is in the report itself at Pages 544 and 545. The surgeons' testimony was that they came to their conclusions after opening up the President's body; Mr. Hoover's version is that the F. B. I. agents' reports gave the situation in the phase preceding that.

It was the Justice Department that asserted Federal law-enforcement agencies would have access to the X-rays and photographs in line with the Burke Marshall letter for the Kennedy family, and we used a story by Fred Graham on that in the Nov. 2 issue of The Times. We were refused such access.

I do remember Bernie Solomon well, and I'm glad he still thinks of me after all these years away from the U. N. Please say hello to him for me.

--more

2. Mrs. Sylvia Meagher.

Your article on Oswald and the State Department, in *The Minority of One*, was called to my attention by a highly interesting person who found it disturbing. I brought it to Mr. Salisbury's attention, and he also read it with great interest. The project included talking to some people both inside the commission staff and outside who had some views on how all these things happened, and some sardonic comments. I do not any longer have the file that was involved, but my recollection was that there was one factual challenge to the effect that one lookout card did get placed in Oswald's file. This was removed after he repaid the travel loan, with some flap as to how this occurred; it was not one of the phases I worked on myself.

I'll be intrigued to know when your own book comes out. Maybe it can be a spot news story at that time, regardless of whatever is done about the material that had been collected here.

With thanks and good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Peter Kihss