

28 December 1969

Mr. Paul Scott
Senate Press Gallery
The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

*Not Sent
(See Revision)*

Dear Mr. Scott:

This letter refers to your syndicated column of November 1969, published locally under the title "Lee Oswald's Last Letter," which is an updated but almost identical version of your syndicated column which appeared two years earlier, in November 1967. In both the original and the updated column, you refer to a CIA "memorandum to the (Warren) commission, now declassified and on file in the National Archives, and proceed to quote the text of that document, ostensibly in its entirety and without any indication of deletion or hiatus.

The CIA memorandum in question was published in full as Commission Exhibit No. 3126 in Volume XXVI (page 790) of the Hearings and Exhibits of the Warren Commission, issued by the Government Printing Office in November 1964. The full text, which has been on the public record for five years, states:

"In reply to your verbal request, I forward information on Eusebio AZQUE, and views on his dealings with Lee Harvey OSWALD.

"We surmise that the references in OSWALD's 9 November letter to a man who had since been replaced must refer to Cuban Consul Eusebio AZQUE, who left Mexico for Cuba on permanent transfer on 18 November 1963, four days before the assassination. AZQUE had been in Mexico for 18 years and it was known as early as September 1963 that AZQUE was to be replaced. His replacement did arrive in September. AZQUE was scheduled to leave in October but did not leave until 18 November.

"We do not know who might have told OSWALD that AZQUE or any other Cuban had been or was to be replaced, but we speculate that Silvia Duran or some Soviet official might have mentioned it if OSWALD complained about AZQUE's altercation with him." (Memorandum addressed to J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the Warren Commission, by Richard Helms, CIA Deputy Director for Plans, dated 17 September 1964: Hearings and Exhibits, Volume XXVI, page 790.) (Underlining added)

The underlined portions of the above exact full copy of the CIA memorandum were excised without indication of deletion, both in your November 1967 and your November 1969 column. The deleted sentences, however, place into a completely different light the so-called "mystery" of Oswald's knowledge of Azque's transfer and departure from Mexico.

You perhaps relied on staff work or sources in Governmental agencies for the mutilated and misleading version of the CIA memorandum which you published, presumably in good faith. It is unfortunate that you did not check the authentic document to be certain that the text you published was accurate and complete as to the essential contents.

This letter is written to request you, most seriously and respectfully, to publish as soon as possible an amplification, clarification, and correction of

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the CIA memorandum as it was set forth in your November 1969 syndicated column, to rectify the misrepresentation therein of the contents and meaning of the document in question.

I note with interest your casual reference in the same column to the fact that Oswald's letter mentioning the recall of Azque (CE 15, Volume XVI, Hearings and Exhibits) was "intercepted and read by the FBI before it arrived at its destination." In my book Accessories After the Fact (Bobbs-Merrill, 1967), pp.220-221, I had adduced evidence which led me to conclude that the FBI was intercepting Oswald's letters to others at the point of origin as early as April 1963. I am therefore pleased that your column corroborates my conclusion. If we accept the fact of FBI interception of Oswald's mail early in 1963 and perhaps from the time of his return to the United States in mid-1962, the interesting question arises of possible FBI interception of Oswald's supposed mail orders of a revolver and a rifle, in January and February 1963 respectively; and, if so, of surveillance and other precautionary measures which the FBI should then have initiated when a person of Oswald's history acquired firearms.

May I hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience on the matter of the CIA memorandum, by letter or if you wish by collect call (evenings) to my home number, Area Code 212, Chelsea 2-4293? Should I have no response by mid-January 1970, I will feel it my duty to send copies of this letter to the Government agencies concerned and to the American Society of Newspaper Editors and other interested parties, in the hope that the full and correct facts are placed before the public. I do not take any pleasure in stipulating this condition but I feel obliged to do so because I have never received any reply to a letter I sent you on 22 April 1967, asking you to clarify a column you published in February 1967 which seemed to imply that there was some connection between my Subject Index to the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits (Scarecrow Press, 1966) and a Government agency, which connection did not exist in any manner, shape or form.

Looking forward to your response to this letter,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, N.Y. 10014

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