

6/10/76

Dear Sylvia,

In the talk I gave two days ago on the Kennedy assassination reference was made to White's account in the opening of his *The Making of the President 1964* of the placing of the entire military establishment of the United States on worldwide alert and of one of the "nine global divisions" on red alert on its own initiative; I said I would love to know which division had gone on red alert, that it might indicate a more precise source and aim of the assassination. Afterward a young man who said he had been in service in West Germany at the time of the assassination told me that on Nov. 22, 1963 that the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the 7th Army, stationed in Fulda, W. Ger., with the general mission of patrolling the border between E. + W. Germany and between W. Germany and Czechoslovakia, had been put on red alert. It was not the first time but it was unlike other preceding alerts in two respects: it held for two days, not 30 minutes as White said; and for the first and only time in my informant's service: full ammunition of all kinds was issued to all, including tanks.

There is something to follow up. with White. With military

historians. After retirement?

Roger was present at the talk but left after the presentation, as he told me when he called yesterday, before the discussion, to see the film All the President's Men which he recommended. Roger was fearful he might have come to the government's attention as a result of a conversation he had with a "friend in Maryland" whom he didn't want to identify by name. This "friend" said he was under surveillance and his telephone was tapped, etc. I tried to reassure Roger but the revelation of cowardice was particularly pointed because I had spent an hour the night before documenting the cowardice of the revolutionary movement in 1963-64 and its conscious betrayal of a worker Marxist revolutionary in the grip of the class enemy. Roger will probably be scared off in the near future. So I need know nothing about the red alert in West Germany.

Well, June 8, 1976 marks the end of my active interest in the Kennedy assassination, I hope. Beginning immediately, I will try to dig into the controversy now swirling about the Trotskyists and the assassination of Trotsky in 1940.

Thomas

5/3/76

Dear Sylvia,

Government By Gunflay arrived today and I began to read it. First the Assassination Information Bureau Position Paper which can be cited in defense against a charge of having murdered its authors: "Here we state... our reason for proposing the question, 'who killed JFK?' as a slogan for a new citizens' movement to reclaim the spirit of revolutionary America!!" Then I turned to Scott who demonstrates the "bureaucratic" conflicts over Vietnam and Cuba policies in the Kennedy administration in 1963 and pronounces, in conclusion, "It would be grossly fallacious to conclude that these foreign policy changes were the motive (his emphatic) for the assassination, as well as the result of it"!! Equalled to that other cowardly professor, Thompson whose microscience attack on the fake evidence was topped off with the convenient explanation of the discovery of magic bullet #399. Both are prearranged pleas to the establishment to regard them as loyal outries.

Then came Katz. What a rive! Suddenly, an idea!

Page 53. "As Oswald returned to Dallas, the incidence of the 'second Oswald' increased. . . . On the morning of November 20, when Oswald was at work, a customer at a Dallas restaurant got nasty over an order of poorly prepared eggs. A police officer who was there glowered at the customer. The officer was S.D. Tippitt. The customer, according to the waitress, was Oswald." Incident of the Dobbs House restaurant on Berkeley, about 120 numbers, beyond Oswald's rooming house.

Complaining about eggs in nasty language calls attention to the complainant. Tippitt noticed him. It is of a piece with all the other second-Oswald stuff.

You tried in Accessories to use the reported incident to discredit the Commission by suggesting error in the testimony adduced by the FBI showing Oswald at work in the Book Depository at the hour on the day in question. You had only suspicion.

But assume that both accounts were true: Oswald was at work; Tippitt noticed the second Oswald. He could

identify him. If he did so the existence of two Oswalds would betray the plot and, possibly, identify the man as one of Kennedy's killers. There's motive for killing Tippit by a man who could approach him "innocently" and kill him in cold blood with or without another man to help him. Then, if he ran by prearrangement, to the Texas Theater where police would converge, again by prearrangement, to capture the first Oswald!

Now, please, put aside any considerations of defending what you wrote, and think of (1) all possible objections to the suggestion of Oswald² as Tippit's killer, and (2) where this leads.

Even if this "theory" will not withstand searching examination it has a certain value in the direction I indicated in an earlier letter last year, I think. The Fensterwald-O'Toole documentation of the existence of a second Oswald, I remarked, makes it necessary to review, to re-examine all evidence relating to "Oswald."

If you want to discuss this with Roger, no objection.

Another Katz bit of information: "Warren Commission documents 212 concerning Ruth Paine, 218 concerning her husband, Michael Paine, an employee of Bell Helicopters, 508 on Ruth's sister and 600-629 on Michael's relatives were all classified 'Secret' for security reasons." & They're not on the Archives Inventory. What can that signify?

Tam