

22 January 1979

Dear Tony,

Thanks for your letter of the 16th. I think you have succeeded in clearing up the mystery of the "closed circuit film" and that we can forget this matter now. You may, however, wish to share with Earl Golz and eventually with Mary Ferrell the results of your inquiry and the information you got from Barker.

As to Harker, all my inquiries of people who know the news media came up blank. No one knows anything about him. I could not get through to his editor, without whose permission Harker will not speak to me.

Regarding page 331 of my book and the reference to the naval cable in CE 917, it involves an anachronism which has never been explained. The text of the cable is as follows:

3 NOVEMBER 59 FROM ALUSHA MOSCO TO CNO

ATTENTION INVITED TO ANEMB MOSCOW DISPATCHES 234 DTD 2 NOVEMBER
AND 224 DTD 26 OCTOBER CONCERNING THE RENUNCIATION OF US CITIZENSHIP
AND REQUEST FOR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD FORMER MARINE
AND OSWALD STATED HE WAS
RADAR OPERATOR IN MARCORPS AND HAS OFFERED TO FURNISH SOVIETS INFO HE
POSSESSES ON US RADAR.

This is a line-for-line copy and the blank segment of line 4 corresponds in placement and space with CE 917 as it appears in Volume XVIII page 115. It would give no pause if a dispatch dated 2 November related Oswald's intentions with regard to his citizenship; but the text implies that the dispatch of 26 October also related to that, five days before Oswald's visit to the Embassy. We do not know the contents of the excised portion of line 4. Did it refer to a second unnamed person who also tried to renounce his US citizenship and also requested Soviet citizenship, and did so on or before 26 October? If so, the identity of that person, or the very fact of his attempted defection, have never been made public or even hinted at. So we are left with an apparent anachronism with respect to Oswald. Do you have any thoughts on this cable which might explain the discrepancy?

I am really sorry to hear about Mary. I spoke to her on the 30th of December, but only after my call was screened by her husband, and she told me of her bouts with hypertension. It is no wonder that after all her hard and prolonged work on this case, over and above a demanding job and homemaking, her health has begun to suffer.

You will have had the copy of my letter to John Berendt. Let me know if he contacts you. All the best,