

fact 2/4/70
Saturday

Dear Sylvia,

Hey, I know Elizabeth (or "Beth") Wright pretty well. Had lunch with her a couple of times ~~in~~ in Dallas and she proved tremendously helpful to us at Parkland. I suspect she smells several rats in the assassination pile; she owns the whole 26 volumes. By the way she is related to O.P. Wright; they're married of all things. Crazy looking couple -- he a big, fat policeman, and she a small, charming, even a bit chic, Army nurse. From what you said I'd be inclined to think that there is nothing much in that change in her affidavit. If you think it would be informative I could write her when I get home; I have her home address in Philadelphia. Say Sylvia, have you checked the general appearance of the fragment we're interested in, with other photos in the 26 vols. of the remaining bullets from Tippit, fragments recovered from the front seat and from JFK's head. I was just wondering whether my recollection that they failed to resemble it was correct.

I may be on to something else that might interest you. Didn't we talk earlier about me going down to Washington to see Fulbright and various people about the Tonkin Gulf incidents in August 1964? Well, through a good friend over here I can get appointments with very high-placed officials of the DRV in Paris, and very likely get a visa for North Vietnam if I want to go. The idea being to run down from the DRV side what really happened on Aug. 2 and 4, 1964, and then compare this with the American version. NY Review of Books for Jan. 29, 1970 carried a review of a new book on these incidents; Geis is sending it ~~me~~ to me although I haven't read it at this time. From the review of it, it becomes apparent that a mystery surrounds certain radio intercepts that persuaded McNamara that an attack occurred. It is suggested that these intercepts were either fabricated or fiddled by someone in the American intelligence apparatus, and that as a result not only the Congress and people were conned on these incidents, but that Johnson and McNamara themselves may have been deceived by their own people. Since the DRV has records of military communications traffic, if they were willing to cooperate, it should be no great problem to find out what actually was said on the night of Aug. 4th. Also it should be easy to verify where their ships actually were when they were supposed to be attacking the Maddox and the Turner Joy. No one, apparently, has thought of looking at the North Vietnamese side of it and this seems like such an obvious place to begin. If you get a minute, take a look at the review and tell me what you think of the whole problem. I'm troubled as to whether to pursue it farther -- is there really a worthwhile book there? -- and would love to know what you think.

Take care of yourself.

Love,

Tim

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