

8 February 1974

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht
Coroner
542 Fourth Avenue
Pittsburgh 15219

Dear Cyril,

Many thanks for sending me a copy of George Stidworthy's letter. It is heartening and gratifying to receive such strong expert comments, unsolicited, on the issue of Oswald's marksmanship. His rifle capability has been, from the first, a main reason for rejection of the conclusions of the Warren Report by the authentic critics.

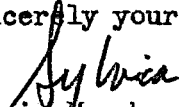
While I am happy about Mr. Stidworthy's letter, I do have comments on a few points. First, I do not agree that Oswald "obviously was a party to the conspiracy" for the many reasons detailed in my book and magazine articles.

Second, I seriously doubt that Jack Ruby was already "beset by terminal cancer" when he murdered Oswald on 24 November 1963. You will recall that Ruby died on 3 January 1967, more than three years later, and that the cancer diagnosis was made public only some six weeks before his death.

Finally, it is not exactly correct to say of the Warren Commission that "no one ever bothered to question if or how Oswald could have done the actual shooting with that weapon." The fact is that at least two witnesses called to testify on other aspects of the case offered of their own volition devastating criticism of the theory that Oswald have fired the shots using the 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano--namely, Dean Andrews and Charles Greener. Their opinions were completely omitted in the body of the Warren Report. However, the Commission did interrogate other marksmanship witnesses quite extensively in an effort to demonstrate Oswald's capability. Even though Lt-Colonel Folsom of the Marine Corps characterized Oswald as "a rather poor shot", the Commission held to the fiction of his capability and embodied that claim in its Report.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,


Sylvia Heagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, NY 10014

cc: others mentioned
in your memo