

February 14, 1986

Mr. Iger Yefimov
Hermitage
P. O. Box 410
Tenafly, N.J. 07670

My dear Mr. Yefimov,

Your package has arrived. First of all, I congratulate you on the publication of Our Choice and History by the Philosophical Library. It is a very handsome book. I have only dipped into it, but even so I am greatly impressed by the quality of your writing and by your intellectual stature. I am a frank illiterate in philosophy and metaphysics (I never even read my friend Josiah Thompson's book on Kierkegaard--it was way over my head). But I am most grateful for your handwritten inscription and I like very much the appellation "whistle blower". Thank you for that.

Second, I read very carefully the table of contents and the outline of your book-in-progress on the assassination of President Kennedy and the murders of Tippit and Oswald. I see that you have reversed the chronological order of these events, which is different and provocative.

Chapter 27 in the table of contents mentions Brandig, a name that I have never encountered before. It suggests that you have discovered something new and I will be most interested to learn more about this when your book is completed.

There are many things in your outline with which I agree; there are also many things that I question or disagree with. You seem to reject the possibility of a false Oswald, for which I believe there is powerful evidence. When you flesh out your argument against a double Oswald, I hope you will deal specifically with the various witnesses (the furniture store ladies, Bogard, the barber, the grocer, the shooting range witnesses). I do not know if you receive the periodical The Third Decade (published by Jerry Rose, State University College, Fredonia, New York 14063, \$15.00 a year), in which I have just had published an article that I wrote in 1970 dealing in part with still another false-Oswald-allegation which I consider quite significant.

I am extremely interested in your claim that the wound in the President's back was an exit wound, inflicted by the first bullet, which entered through the throat. I have struggled and struggled with the very same idea, which seemed to me to be entirely logical, but I could not find proof. I am really excited by your assertion and I look forward to reading your evidence and arguments when your book is ready. This alone, if you have solved the problem, will be an immense contribution.

I continue to believe that it is at least possible that Oswald was completely innocent, and that he did not shoot Tippit or anyone else at any time. But I will keep an open mind until I can examine your reasoning.

I can accept the thesis that JFK was assassinated by a group of hired professional assassins who had Mafia connections; you will have to demonstrate how Castro and/or Khrushchev were able to conspire with Mafia executors and how these parties were able to control and manipulate Oswald so as to present the facade of a lone assassin.

I am not happy with your conclusion that only Khrushchev and Castro had the means to engineer the assassination. That was the instant theory of the ultra-right, including many Dallas officials, and remains the theory of the worst elements of American reactionaries and many knee-jerk anti-progressives. But I do not dismiss the idea because of the nature of the people who defend it--it is simply that I have never seen any evidence that would incriminate Nikita, Fidel, or for that matter Lyndon Johnson. I do not even believe that the Soviets are implicated in the attempt on the Pope.

These are my preliminary comments on your outline. Generally, I am very impressed by your methodology and the depth of your research. I expect that your book will make a genuine contribution to the historical record and I am really looking forward to seeing it published.

Again, my congratulations, and every good wish,

Sincerely yours,