

January 2, 1981

312-753-1234  
0952

Mr. Gaeton Fonzi  
c/o The Washingtonian Magazine  
1828 L Street, NW  
Washington DC 20036

Dear Mr. Fonzi:

By now you have probably received mail in great volume. I almost hesitate to add to it, but perhaps this would be of interest.

First of all, let me congratulate you on your article.

I have three items of possible interest — one from my own experience, and two observations: Many years ago, shortly after the founding of the Agency, I had occasion to meet a young man on the campus of the University of Chicago. We went to a small political discussion group, and found that we were the only Americans there. Later, he and I had a few beers at a nearby campus hangout known as "The High Ceiling" (no longer there, I believe). This man impressed me as very professional, and in the next few days I got the feeling he was trying either to recruit me or to pump me. Having had some dealings with the Agency, I reported the matter to them.

Some months later I was in a Washington office of the Agency (not the then-main office) near the White House and the Hilton Hotel. An ivy-covered building. During my conversation, this same man came through the room, in an obviously planned fashion, and looked at me (and I at him), apparently to satisfy us both.

I believe this man's name was Bishop (I am personally certain of it). He also could fit the description very well if one adds a few years. I believe he was a student, perhaps a graduate student, between 1949-1952 at the University of Chicago, and probably a graduate of the University College. I have reason to believe he continued at CIA and became a deep-cover career officer.

A question arises as to the name. Recall that at the time I speak of, Bishop was new, just out of the University and not yet into a deep-cover covert career. He might very well have been using his own name, particularly at the University. That he would use it again many years later is not surprising, since he would have used so many others in between.

A somewhat humorous aside strikes me with reference to your vallant efforts to find Bishop. The upper echelons of the Agency positively overflow with sturdy, six-foot, blue-eyed WASP types. I know a number who answer the description (as docs Phillips) who, I know, are not M. Bishop. This was brought home to me once when I met Allen Dulles at Princeton, surrounded by what can only be described as a clan of tall, blue-eyed WASPs, making Mr. Dulles seem shrunken by comparison. I enjoyed it. Of Northern European origins I am. But tall I am not.

To answer another question: Why do I recall Bishop? I probably would not, but for the identification encountered in Washington, and the fact of having seen him again a few years later. So much for my Bishop "contribution".

On the matter of the suitcase with about a quarter-million given to Antonio Veciana, I am certain that you know by now that this is a standard method of payment.

Sometimes (but probably not in this case) the Agency gives some instructions to contract agents regarding the handling of the IRS. If on any other occasion they gave assistance on this problem to Veciana, it just might give you a further handle on things. But that's a long shot.

A final observation: There is a surprisingly neglected area of the case wherein some tracks might still exist, and at least some explanations could be required. It appears that the Department of State assisted Oswald in returning from Russia, at least to the amount of about \$450.00. This may not seem strange to many, but in fact it is. The United States Government has, without qualification, the worst record of any nation of any consequence in the world in terms of assistance to and protection of its citizens abroad. The matter is notorious. Americans stranded without funds through no fault of their own had better start looking for a job on a boat instead of wasting time at the U.S. Consulate.

Therefore, that State would assist Oswald in returning from Russia (and with a Russian wife) after he had renounced U.S. citizenship, is absurd — unless someone needed him back here to talk to, at least. State has never really been asked to explain this.

I believe that what you have established is that the Agency (and others) were handling Oswald. In this respect, the Agency's situation is like that of a big-city police department whose intelligence division is dealing with criminals, and one of them suddenly goes off and does some horrendous thing. The authorities can hardly be blamed for a vigorous effort at disassociation. One should also realize that Oswald may have been a victim of false flags.

I am in no way a critic of CIA. If anything, I believe we have been far too limited in our use of clandestine operations. However, I suspect that in the long run, it would be to everyone's advantage to settle this question by locating and identifying M. Bishop...if, in fact, you have not already done so.

I hope this may be of some interest to you.

Sincerely,

An Interested Observer

BASSKREVER

FURTHER RESEARCH.... SPAIN-LOBO

PHILLIPS TV

RONZI:IV

PHILLIPS WIFE HELEN

LUO IN MEXICO REPORT BY LOPEZ AND OTHER YOUNG MEXICAN GUY

WAYNE SMITH

GET VECTANA/PHILLIPS MEETING