

General Book Division

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1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020

November 4, 1980

Mr. Anthony Summers
Still Point
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IRELAND

Dear Tony:

I am sending under separate cover a photocopy of Gaeton Fonzi's article on the JFK assassination that is running in this month's Washingtonian magazine.

You will note that you are prominently mentioned and favorably, too.

I understand from my various friends in Washington that this article has raised some important hackles amongst the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO). You should be aware that the first owner of the Washingtonian was a former Agency man.

I have spoken with Gaeton, and also with a high ranking member of the CIA.

Gaeton told me that he was called by the current head of AFIO, Mr. Maury, who went after Gaeton for commercializing his experiences as an investigator for the Select Committee on Assassinations. Maury also told Gaeton that he would face a rocky road if he tried to have the article turned into a book. That is pretty bad in itself, but there is more.

The CIA man told me that David Phillips has formed an outfit called "Challenge" that has collected funds from members of the AFIO to sue you and Donald Freed, the author of Spymaster. (I regret that you are being linked with Freed, who is off the wall in my opinion.) In other words, Phillips is saying that it is time for them to go on the offense.

The CIA man told me that he was wondering why Phillips was taking this course. He believes that he has figured out why: He agrees that there is a strong circumstantial case to make that Phillips was Bishop. And Bishop paid Vecianna \$253,000 in cash (which you reported in your book), and which is also prominently played in Gaeton's

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Page Two

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article. But what none of us thought about (and Gaeton confirmed to me today that he did not know about this angle) was that if Phillips was Bishop, then the payment of money to Vecianna was in violation of the Federal law (the espionage act and article 47 or 49) and this calls for a hefty jail term in that the CIA is not allowed to undertake covert action inside the USA. Thus Phillips feels that he must "clear his name."

My CIA source says that questions are now being asked on the Hill and inside the Agency as to whether or not Phillips really was Bishop. My source believes that there may well be a Congressional investigation next year into the identity of Bishop, and whether or not an illegal payment was made (e.g. illegal covert actions were going on).

Now I cannot say outright that you are going to be sued. But you should be aware of what Phillips is up to. And I urge that you put your notes of your continuing investigation as to the identity of Bishop in a very safe place.

Please drop me a line when you have read the Washingtonian article.

Meanwhile,

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce".

Bruce Lee
Senior Editor

BL/k1

cc: Deborah Rogers