

London

July 29 1970

Dear Mr Lindsay-Smith,

Here is the Kennedy article in finished form after a period of delay with the congressional investigator concerned. I understand you may not get off publication for a couple more weeks. That's fine by me, but I think somebody should smartly speak with the Washington Post which is bound to break the story either on its own or in concert with The Observer (by agreement in writing with Trevor Grove), but which imagines that means as of this coming weekend. A few additional points:

You should know that I have never formally interviewed Phillips, a fact he does not cease to raise. Last year, this was because I knew what he said from the congressional report, and from my access to Committee sources. In the last few weeks I have listened to him when we have appeared on broadcasts together, and have had access to everything he has said to David Leigh of the Washington Post. Thus, given the other pressures of my trip, he remains un-interviewed.

You should also know that Leigh and I interviewed Prewett together, with me putting up a soft front as an Observer/BBC man working on a long or documentary effort about the Cuban saga, and with Leigh asking many of the hard questions. Since this "Tom and Jerry" act, Leigh has come clean and explained his area of interest. Since this was after I left the States, Prewett still sees me as the sly Observer man interested in the wider story. She has, incidentally, written to Leigh warning that she is litigious. On the other hand, my reporting in her area is purely factual. Neither Leigh nor I see how she could sue.

Nevertheless, I would like to have done more work on Prewett and her connections. They are redolent of intelligence, and she represents perhaps the best break on the story for a long time. Leigh may make further progress, so there should be a check with him before our story goes to bed. (phone 202-334-7236)

Please note the starred portion at the top of P 28, referring to a witness not yet interviewed. Although we ^(in my piece) are assailing the Committee for this lapse, it is now in a sense also our failure. The man, former "Sugar King" of Cuba financier Julio Lobo, is available in Madrid. Frankly, he should be interviewed - and only face-to-face will do. Trevor wanted me to let you know this. Either I could break my holiday to do it, or an Observer man could try - after full briefing from me. The case is so complex that I do not really recommend the second.

As for shortenings, I can suggest only - P 7, from 'The Report' added, picking up again at the top of the next page at Veciana insists. Also, as said in my previous note, the

stuff about Phillips' personal assault on me (bottom of P 9 onward) might be prunable. There are two additional angles you should know about.

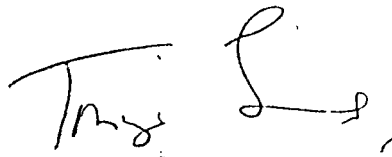
Frank Snepp, author of Decent Interval (on the Vietnam debacle), and former CIA officer, is now completing a novel about the Kennedy assassination. This puzzles me, as he has not been notably irresponsible until now. I heard last night that the current edition of Publisher's Weekly carries a story quoting him as saying that - in vetting his novel - the CIA asked him to make some changes he found unjustifiable. He appears to support my CIA involvement argument, and says that he will be naming the officer who was involved with Oswald. Is this "Bishop"? Is it Phillips? What is this Snepp development all about? I'll try to talk to Snepp before leaving. If I do not get through, however, I think it would be good for somebody to do so before we publish this next piece.

Along the lines of CIA interference with books, I have seen some interesting material which may make you keen to run a separate story. It's a U.I.I. document, as transmitted by CIA, in 1966. It shows that, when Mark Lane's book and Epstein's book were about to appear here, the US Cultural Attaché (apparently acting for CIA) approached Professor Goodhart at Oxford and asked him to write a damning review for the Sunday Telegraph. According to the document, Prof. Goodhart agreed. Obviously there is a story here - I gather Goodhart is alive though ancient. He did write the damning pieces. I will send the document and the reviews round to Ruth in Trevor Grove's office this afternoon. (Plus other papers showing CIA plans to rubbish Kennedy books) We should put in a CIA FOI request to see what they've tried with regard to my book. They have done something, according to the comments by Snepp.

Would somebody soon speak to my agent, Deborah Rogers, about my fee?

Thanks for looking after all this, and for your continued confidence in this difficult story.

Sincerely,


Anthony Summers

Photographs will be with Ruth Sims.