

1/26/76

Mr. Les Whitten
1401 16 St., NW
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Dear Les,

After the last several columns I know what you meant by being pressed for time and material.

Today's reminds me of something I published in 1967 on the CIA. It is in Photographic Whitewash, p. 143 - the CIA's request for a print of the Zapruder film ~~xxxxxx~~ showing JFK being killed and his head blowing up.

Two and a half months after the Commission filed its Report Hoover wrote Rankin asking permission to lend a copy "to that Agency solely for training purposes." He added, "the showing of the film would be restricted to Agency personnel."

Rankin's secretary's note indicates he arranged this for them with LIFE.

I did not resist temptation in the footnote about "solely for training purposes." I asked, "To train assassins? Or teach them how not to get caught?"

Well, whatever the CIA did with the film, they did not restrict it to Agency personnel and the training given local police went much farther than your column or any other sources have indicated.

The film - and individual slides - were used in training local police. If you are interested you'll have to find one who took the training. You can't use me as a source if you have to use one because I gave my word to one who took the training in a complex arrangement that, if it interests you, I'll tell you when we are together. He was shown the film and individual slides made from it and there was close study.

If you want to use the document, you don't have to credit the book.

If you look into this and learn anything I'd like to know why either Agency personnel or local police needed to study this film for "training purposes."

Best,

Harold Weisberg