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Dear Dick,

Without assistance it has been and will be impossible for me to return to the King Conspiracies book I mentioned to you some time ago. Searching, retrieving and refiling the records I'll require is beyond my physical capabilities and there is no likelihood that they will improve. Fact is I'm weaker and less able.

Some years ago, in the 1970s, I did a rough draft of a few chapters of a book that had been in mind and I sent them to a friend who was then education editor at Bantam. He showed them to the fiction editor. They agreed that it was rough but powerful and effective, if I remember their praise accurately. Mark Jaffe mixed it. The working title is Agent Oswald, without the ? that will be clear in the text.

I don't know how much you remember of Oswald in New Orleans, but there is a short passage recounting a caller-in when I was doing the Joe Dolan radio talk show from Jack London Square in Oakland. He would not talk to me on the air but with some uneasiness from the beep then required by the FCC did talk to me privately. He told me that he had been in the Marines with Oswald and the man I described from the official records was not real from his personal knowledge. He told me a couple of things besides what interested me most of all and I checked those little-known things out and he was accurate. What excited me is his statement that Oswald was one of only five men in their radar outfit who had crypto clearance.

When I returned home I did enough checking to convince me that beyond any question at all Oswald was something other than the run-of-the-mill Marina, that he was trusted, dependable and possessed of real and important secrets. However, my FOIA inquiries of the Navy got me nowhere. Then I thought to try the back door with the front door so firmly closed. I wrote separately and without mention of Oswald asked for -and got- the court martial inquiry into the death of another Marine, Martin Schrand. It seems like a few of the nuttier Marines led the Warren Commission fink (and prestigious) lawyers to believe that Oswald might have killed Schrand. Well, it turns out that Schrand was one of those five, that he and Oswald had taken their basic radar and advanced radar training together and had been together in the Marines from that time on. And that Schrand was guarding, of all things, "the crypto van" when he killed himself. The van, if I recall the correct word, had been on a carrier and had been removed to, of all things, Cubi Point, which was, among other things, a CIA base in the Philippines. And what had they been doing before this? They were part of Operation Strong Back - which I believe was a CIA operation to overthrow Sukarno in Indonesia. In short, Oswald never had any active duty or overseas assignment as a Marina that was not connected with the CIA and with one exception, his assignment to a large base at Atsugi, Japan, all are reflected on his service record as no more than "maneuvers." However, this security clearances not only are not on his service record, the FBI found no indication of them and when Oswald "defected" to the USSR the navy found none to report to the Moscow embassy. I have these records, and many others I won't now go into. Unless you want me to. But believe me, there is much more and it is good copy, involving even a defected KGB official the CIA almost assassinated, and with what records! They abused the poor man incredibly for three years before he was "cleared." Only a nut, a paranoid or someone with something to hide would have dreamed that he was other than what he really was, an intelligence windfall. Only recently I've gotten some FBI record that were withheld from me for more than a decade bearing on this, the case of Yuri Nosenko, and it completely destroys the official CIA explanation, which when made

to the Congress appeared to be a full and repentant confession.

What I've been thinking about recently is getting back to this book if it can bring me in enough to enable me to hire someone to help me with what I think will be an exceptionally important book, The King Conspiracies. I'm not suggesting that Agent Oswald won't be. I think it will be. And it does not require the many, many trips on the callar stairs The King Conspiracies will, and getting into so many files in so many file cabinets. Close to 60, mostly filled.

I've not been searching for an assitant because I can't pay for one. I'm not broke but we have to live modestly. I'm still driving that 1965 Valiant you may remember. It has more than 164,000 miles on it and should be replaced but I don't dare do that either because we do not have enough to cover emergencies that can trouble older people. I'll be 74 in two weeks.

So, what do you think of the book from what I've told you? There really is much more, much more.

As I remember it I began what is written by Oswald as a boy, when his favorite TV program was Herbert Philbrick's I Led Three Lives. He took in even the reruns. Then when he was 16 he wrote both the Socialists and the Communists an identical letter offering assiatnce or asking for information on the same day, professing sympathy to each, obviously impossible.

Do you think you know someone who might be interested? Have you any idea what kind of an advance might be offered? And what is important to me, someone who would be willing to compromise and bring out a book with minimum editing if it were merely by their standards acceptable? I don't know how much time I have and I won't get tied up with what I regard as literary chickenshit. I don't have that luxury or time.

I'm sorry I can't get to New York. I can't drive more than 15-20 minutes at a time safely and even being driven to Washington by a professional driver every six weeks to see the doctor your Dr. Robert Segal referred me to exhausts me. And on this subject, believe me, Dick, the usual editing is not only not necessary but if often counterproductive.

There is still interest in the subject and I still sell books without any advertising. Today I had two phone calls from near Los Angeles, yesterday the orders included one from Germany and recently I've had a number of calls from Sweden. In addition to modest domestic orders.

But just imagine, the officially declared presidential assassin had so high a security clearance (vrypto requires Top Secret) and neither the Presidential Commission nor the FBI, CIA or Navy ever told us - and knew it!

If you ever get to Washington it is only an hour or so away and if you can't come here I can probably get driven there, depending on the day and time of day and the availability of the young friend I have in mind.

I still go to the nearby mall at 6:30 mornings and have my physical therapy, walking, resting, walking, etc., for 3-3 1/2 hours but I can't walk nearly as well. I had prostate surgery 1/86 and that damned plumber went out of his way to give me another venous thrombosis. Weakened and slowed me down more.

I hope Jill's prohect was successful or is rproceeding well, that the biys are doing well, and that all of you are well and happy.

Best,

Harold Weisberg