

11/6/69

Mr. Curt Gentry  
439 Chestnut St.,  
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Gentry,

I had never seen Barbara Powers' book but had wanted to read it. By coincidence, a friend who knew this saw it shortly after you called and sent it to me. I then read it but until this morning couldn't recall your last name. So I am late writing to ask you a few questions about it. Perhaps more occurred to me then, but preoccupied with my own work, I may have forgotten them.

To me, throughout her book there are certain implausibilities, and I wonder if it was without official objection or with official blessing. Have you any idea?

For example, she claims (p.58) that she was spirited out of Turkey, with absolutely no knowledge at all that the plane was down, on May 6, yet on page 73, she says that the day before, five days after her husband was down, Khrushchev announced "An American banit plane' had been shot down over Soviet territory May 1".

Is it conceivable no one at the base had the remotest idea, that none of them suggested this to her - that she didn't know before she was "spirited out" that it had happened or suspected that her husband was involved? I find all of this hard to believe. And I also wonder why the spooks waited so long, knowing as they must have, immediately, that their bird was down, to get her back inside the U.S.

On page 19 she quotes a letter she wrote John W. McSweeney, Director, Office of Soviet Union Affairs, Department of State, after the trial. In it she also expresses thanks to "you and Mr. Snyder for your help". Do you know who Mr. Snyder is and whether or not he was then in the USSR?

Hope your book is coming along well. I look forward to reading it. It can be an important contribution to understanding one of the world's closer sheves, perhaps to eliminating others in the future.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



11/8/69 Gary, I am sending the enclosed carbon to you alone. Hal got Barbara's books for me. As soon as I read it I wanted to write Gentry, who had phoned me. I am certain I sent you a carbon of what I sent them. Having sent them his name and address and being unable to recall it, I asked either if he did, in order to avoid reading an enormous file. Neither responded.

I think it unlikely there were too many Snyders in the Moscow Embassy. While attending Lowers' needs may have been the proper function of the Snyder who interests us, how remarkable a coincidence it is that of all the employees when Oswald went there, he is the one Oswald saw. Inherent in this is the suggestion he had special responsibilities, of which, as you know, I have other indications that are not definitive.

Along with other things that suggest it, this makes Oswald seem to be something separate.

I send you this to solicit any thoughts you have but for no comment to anyone. This is a sensitive area where idle chatter can accomplish nothing.

Since the call I've heard nothing from Gentry, nor have I heard any reports about his book. I find myself wondering whether his has any sponsorship. Time will perhaps tell. From what he then told me, he has finished the writing. He did not get in touch with Hal or Paul for access to the hearings, to those things I referred him to, but he may have gotten them from the library, as I also suggested.