

ZODIAC

News Service 950 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103 (415) 956-3555

Harold:

2/17/77

Here are a few items that might interest you. Among them is an article from the Black Panther newspaper with an excerpt from Freed's (and Lane's?) up-coming book to be called Operation Zorro (which I first heard about from you last week.

More parts of these are supposed to appear, so if you're interested, I'll try to send them along. Also enclosed are two type-written stories—from one of our Los Angeles stringers, Jeff Gottlieb, who attended a Lane meeting in L.A. I'm not using them, and am sending them along purely for your edification. However, I'd appreciate your not doing anything with these two items without checking with me first. Since they were sent to ZNS and we didn't purchase them, they are not really public news stories yet, and I wouldn't want to release them for any use without Gottlieb's permission.

The other material is nothing new and speaks for itself.

I'll try to do a little better in collecting stories; I'm beginning to see an avalanche of them. (If I recall, you already see the Washington Post and NY Times, so I shouldn't clip those two. Right?).

P.S. The assassination information bureau in Cambridge tells me there's a bizarre trial in progress in Manila in which an American identified as "Larry Tractman" is being tried 'in absentia'

for allegedly trying to kill Marcos. The AIB says that Tractman has been named in Italian press accounts as also being linked to the JKK assassination. It sounds like disinformation to me. Have you heard anything about it? I'll let you know if I hear more as I wrote to a possible stringer in Manila for more info.

I'll talk to you soon.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the initials 'JM' or similar, written in dark ink.

In September, 1976 Memphis police destroyed many of their files related to the assassination of Martin Luther King. Now, one more valuable piece of evidence is reported missing.

Using the alias John Willard, James Earl Ray checked into a Memphis rooming house where he allegedly fired the shot which killed Dr. King. He says he signed his name in the rooming house's registration book. The book has since disappeared. Ray told Mark Lane that there must be something very serious and important in the book to account for its disappearance. Is it possible the ^{registration} book also contains the names of others involved in the plot?

Gottlieb 2/17/77

Long-time assassination researcher Mark Lane has announced he will soon file a multi-million dollar lawsuit against the CIA. The suit results from CIA documents recently released to Lane which tell of CIA efforts to employ media "assets" to counter doubts raised by Lane ^{about} the Warren Commission's findings. These documents tell how the government agency provided material to reviewers that would "answer and refute the attacks of the critics." and even wrote reviews themselves.

Lane further plans to ask the court to provide injunctive relief to prohibit the CIA from engaging in any such actions against his soon to be published book on the Martin Luther King assassination.

Gottlieb 2/17/77