

B. Kurek
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12/6/93

Dear Mr. Kurek,

You misunderstood me or I was not clear. I did not say I do not read books or do not read any books ostensibly on the assassination. I do not read those I regard as in varying degrees trash. I have and started to read and gave up on Russell's as I did not get as far into it as Mann's self-serving misrepresentation. If he had had his way, over a palpable fake that he continued to have faith in after it was proven to be a ^fwake, we'd have had World War III. That was the Alverado Ugarte concoction that on its face was not possible.

There is no record of which I know in which Hoover wrote or enabled Mann. He may well have phoned the Legat, who delivered the message verbally. But it was over that sick stuff and he is not the only one ^{who} told Mann to back off. He was crazy to pay any attention to it to begin with. Both the CIA and the FBI told their people to check that Nicaraguan intelligence agency out. When they did he confessed to making it up.

What Russell does not say is that JFK made Mann ambassador to Mexico.

What he quotes Hoover as saying cannot be true.

Nor is it that Mann had not reached any conclusions.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold Weisberg

The Setup

tery and, in 1990, I made a springtime trip to Texas, where several people knowledgeable of the CIA's 1962-63 activities there were now living in retirement.

Clark Anderson, the FBI's legal attaché in Mexico City during that critical period, proved vague and unforthcoming. For example, when I mentioned a personal file that I had heard might have been kept on Oswald by Winston Scott, the CIA's station chief, Anderson quickly side-stepped the question. "I know nothing about it," he said. "If I did, I could not comment."³ Anne Goodpasture, who had been Scott's personal aide-de-camp for years, was now living in Dallas, but she refused to be interviewed.

But when I drove on to Austin, where former U.S. ambassador to Mexico Thomas Mann resided, my luck was about to change.

Memories of an Ambassador

A native Texan, Thomas Mann was a career diplomat who had served in the Eisenhower administration as assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. When Kennedy took office, he removed Mann from that post, fearing that his strongly held anti-Communist opinions might make the president's new Latin American Alliance for Progress more difficult to get off the ground. Mann instead became JFK's Ambassador to Mexico, only to be reappointed by Lyndon Johnson to the same high State Department job he had held under Eisenhower. On December 14, 1963, Mann became the new president's first political appointment.⁴

When I met with Mann, he was living in gracious retirement in a ranch-style suburban home in Austin. Though now in his eighties, his mind remained sharp. And he was still puzzling over certain events that took place in Mexico City nearly thirty years before.

"You know, I don't think the United States was very forthcoming to me about Oswald," Mann reflected. "The great puzzle in all this, for me, is why J. Edgar Hoover would say, 'Leave it alone.'"

What do you mean? I asked.

"Basically, the message I received from Hoover, very soon after the assassination, was, 'We don't want to hear any more about this case. And tell the Mexican government not to do any more investigating, we just want to hush it up.' Well, I hadn't reached any conclusions, and that's why it surprised me so much. It was the only time anything like this ever happened to me in all my years in government."

Mr. Harold Wausberg
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Mr. Wausberg:

Dec. 2, 1993

Just a quick afterthought (to my recent letter) - you once, long ago, wrote saying that you don't read other people's books [perhaps for reason of being inundated with your own work and being short on time].

Even so, and with no critical comment, I enclose some copied ~~material~~ material for your benefit "Memories of An Ambassador", from Ch. 20, pp 453 of Dick Russell's The Man Who Knew Too Much.

Now you can further as well as better understand Hoover's expressed attitudes, his hostility to you and his own sloppy, manipulative work.

B. Kukuk

PS - Recent Paris Match has a view (w/ green arrow) from building across street from Depository.

See p 73; Match No 2322 / Nov 25, 1993 / 14F