

Dear Dave,

3/1/92

John Masland is an Army (Green ~~Berets~~ Berets) colonel who is interested in writing about institutional failures in the JFK assassination. When he was here Friday I suggested that if you have the time when you are here it would be good for you to meet. Later I suggested Jerry also although he can see Jerry easier and later.

When he was first here some months ago John said he would be retiring soon. At lunch Friday he said that was to have been the day of his retirement but that he'd gotten a letter from Cheney holding him on active duty for another year. I asked John then for the first time what kind of work he was doing and he replied, "classified," so I asked him no more. Whatever it is, it must be of some importance because he always has a battery-operated cellular phone with him so he can call and be called. I think he said he'd had the one he carried four or five years without any problems with it.

John began with a general interest in the JFK assassination. He said he wanted to study and write about it. As over a period of time we discussed this, by phone, letters and his visits, he decided to address institutional failures. This is the very first thing in his short outline that is really a skeleton he'll flesh out as he goes.

I'd given him some records and after reading this outline of an outline gave him more Friday and suggested files he might read when he is here again.

I think he is a good person to write about institutional failures because he has experienced the cover-the-ass attitude in his military career. He told us a story to illustrate this, about when he was a fresh and green lieutenant in Viet Nam and on a scouting or intelligence mission saw and photographed tanks moving south. When he reported this to a higher office, I think he said a general, the reply, repeated as he insisted that he did see and photograph tanks, being "There are no tanks." When they fought those tanks and he said he'd reported their coming, he got a black mark that is still in his personnel file. He has not attempted to have it removed.

Bill and I have come to like him. In small ways he is thoughtful. He brings Lil fresh flowers, for example.

And he is collecting a considerable amount of information, much on microfilm.

You have your own plans for working on "Dubious Epitaph" when you are here but if you don't want to take much time from this I suggest that perhaps if we lunch or dine at Hanass when you are here, you can get to know each other and you can learn more about what he wants to do and perhaps be of help to him in it.

I write so you can think about this before getting here and decide. I've told him when you plan to be here. Please let me know because I think I'll hear from him before then.

There seems to be no or very little overlap in your interests. His is focused more narrowly. I think that because of his personal experiences and different background he is a fine person to write about some of the institutional failures. Best,

Harold