Dear Walter,

After I spoke to you about Jose Luis Romero I did a little checking, partly because I could not find the file I had. That thing has interested me from the first for several reasons that would mean nothing to one not familiar with the field and some of the farout things that really have happened.

This reminds me of a case I have reason to believe was a SDECE job, and I could argue that they had CIA help, if not the CIA as a principal. I have a rather large file on that one, which aborted. Well, it was so far along, I guess it would be more precise to say it was stillborn. With a little help.

I remembered someone who had spoken to me of the Romero book at the time it was first publicized. I then held the opinion I have no reason to change, that it is a manufacture, not a book. Not agreeing with me to begin with, that person now does. He has done what I have not, looked into it a bit. I have not had time to discuss it with him or to learn the extent of his inquiry. Instead I am getting a copy of his file. If it seems worthwhile, I'll send it to you.

There is a story not clear in my mind, that a woman of best intention took Romero pictures of the Watergate five. He promptly "identified" two as men he'd dealt with. I very much doubt it, if it happened. This file may clarify that. My doubt, as I presume you understand, spring from no great love for any of those characters.

There is a small magazine called Computers and Automation that is off on a paranoid kick on assassinations. I do not get it. I hold this part of its contents in the lowest possible regard. It is sick and utterly responsible stuff they print. I am told that the current or a recent issue has articles on both sides of Romero. Big deal! I guess that will be included in what I'm getting.

The first time I saw Jerry Friedheim with his bare face hanging out while he "briefed" the press on all the things we were not doing in North Vietnam and all the non-bombing of all those places that got pulverized, I got an idea for an Instant Book. I've suggested it to some friends in the peace movement. The title, the source of which I'm sure you'll recognize, is "If There Is Such a Place". The cover would show "by Jerry Friedheim", with his title. I've suggested the official seal be on it. On the inside I've suggested a subtitle, "The Official Account of the Non-Bombing of Hanoi." For those who put it together, "With the assistance of George Orwell, Susan Schmaltz, etc..."

Part of the idea is that those who do the compiling say nothing in their own names. On the left-hand page, facsimile reproduction of the full texts of Friedheim's briefings, going back to the non-bombing of the French Mission. On the right-hand page something appropriate, and that one has limitless possibilities in texts and pictures. Another tragically limitless text is whence the title comes, his foolish denials that we bombed the Back Mai Hospital, "If There Is Such a Place". Pictures on that one! for the facing page, maybe earlier newspaper accounts of an earlier bombing of the same hospital.

If these people go ahead with the project, in which I would hold an interest, I've suggested that they seek commercial publication and, if that is not possible, print it themselves. I've already told them how to put it all together for offset reproduction. Another "underground" book. No typesetting. If the thing goes forward, I hope the government is crazy enough to do what they didn't try with me, sue over the use of the seal.

Aside from the possible appeal to young people and those concerned about the state of the country and the departure of integrity from the official word, I think such a job, properly done, meaning responsibly and with restraint, if not without the ridicule that would be hard to avoid with such horrendous falsehood so sincerely uttered, could find a rather respectable school market.

As usual, in haste,