

1/15/91

Dear Gunnar,

With about a half hour to go before the Gulf D-Day I do share your hope that the matter is resolved without war. Not that there is any reason to believe that it will be, alas.

First I want to thank you very much for tracking Mrs. Jacoby down. I wrote Sol Rabkin immediately and I'm sure he and his wife will appreciate very much what you did for them. Like most lawyers of our generation, he never learned to type, writing everything out in longhand. His is almost as illegible as mine, thus the mistake in the name. So, he'll phone me. He and his wife are dear friends of our youth and we do appreciate the favor you have done them. I do not know how many of us survive but we were on the staff of the Senate "Civil Liberties Committee" together in the '30s.

I have not seen the magazine Z since its earliest issues. The reason I did not subscribe, as I now recall, is that it was too super-super left and not infrequently both wrong and irresponsible. That it took any of the insanity out of Dallas seriously, that it apparently made no independent check, confirms my early impression. I did also see some good things in it then, however.

An example of this is that it apparently did impress your Stockholm daily of which I've heard good things for years. *It is respected here.*

I do not know Ron Laytner and never heard of him until I got a copy of a ~~54004~~ similar story published by what I've been told is the Edinburgh edition of the *Daily Mail*. He appears to be connected with Harrison Livingstone, author of *High Treason*. It is a book largely on the public domain but featuring what he says are actual photographs and X-rays of the JFK autopsy. Livingstone and his associate Robert Groden claim that some of this film has been doctored. I do not see what they say they see in this film and I also see no purpose in government elements evolving fakes that in and of themselves destroy the official explanation of the assassination. (You will come to this in *Post Mortem*.) I also think that the last parts are quite irresponsible in attributing the crime to the CIA or other spookeries on the basis of conjecture alone. All such things serve to confuse and distress the sorrowing people even more and to exculpate those they accuse. I've seen countless FBI records in which they enjoy punching holes in such work and distributing their memos in great glee. Despite what Laytner is quoted as saying by Z while working on a story about Ricky White, Livingstone told me that they are his pictures. I am not certain but something Livingstone told me makes me believe that he is acting as Livingstone's agent in Europe. What Laytner says is not new so his explanation that it is better to get the story out first abroad makes no sense. I wonder if the real purpose is ~~not~~ to generate interest in Livingstone's book. Which has sold and in paperback reprint is ~~is~~ selling very well here. He'd like to have it published in Europe.

I do not get along well with Livingstone, who has emotional problems bordering on paranoia and is inclined to start controversies that are not in my interest at my age and in my health. I told him when he phoned last week, after I'd written him that I wanted no more contact with him, that if he persisted in non sequiturs I would hang up, he did, I did, and I now have a long accusatory letter from him, along with the *Mail* story. I can summarize my opinion by telling you that I've asked him over and over again why anyone would fake pictures that destroy the story they allegedly were faked to support and have no responsive answer. I have never doubted that JFK was shot from the front and said, including in *Post Mortem*, as much as I could responsibly say to indicate belief that he was also shot in the head from the front. How the bullet would act inside the head, if this did happen, only an expert can say and I'm not one. But there are pretty good indications that it was not a military bullet and was a "soft" one designed to explode. The official interpretation of the X-rays, as you will see in *Post Mortem*, is that there was a deposit of about 40 dust-like particles toward the front of the head. And a reminder before I run out of space, on the chance you are able to get here. Two history professors/friends, one local, the other Dave Wrono from Wisconsin, who is here right now, are copying records for two different books, the local friend

on Dr. Martin Luther King's Poor Peoples Campaign, Wrono on a JFK assassination book, and both are finding useful a very large file that many or may not be of interest in its reflection of how the FBI works. This file is of copies of FBI records I made for separate filing and so that I'd keep those provided to me as I received them. The title I gave this file is "Control" and both agree it is descriptive and fair. It consists of various FBI records that to me reflected the many ways in which it does assert control, in the very widest sense. I have no way of knowing whether other police agencies work this way, of course, but also no way of knowing that they do not. So, if as I hope you can get here, you may want to examine that and related files, such as on leaking.

Again thanks. I hope we have a better year ahead that is indicated by its beginning. Good luck and best wishes,

Sam

Additional message area.

Do not use tape or stickers to seal. No enclosures permitted. **1** Fold first at notches.

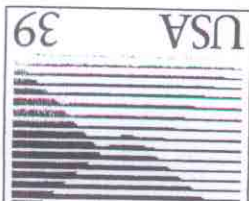
3 Seal top flap last

3 Seal top flap last

2 Second fold

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

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0001 0 1000

Uppsala, January 7, 1991

Harold Weisberg
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217 01 USA

Dear Harold,

a few weeks have gone since I received your letter dated ~~September~~ ^{December}
10 about the old friend of Sol Rabkin.

I am sorry I have not written to you until now. On the other hand I have something to tell about it.

The correct name of the man you wrote about is Eric Jacoby, not Jacobs. It was not Jacoby who was the Danish Chief rabbi, but his wife's father.

Nonetheless it was possible to track him, because the other facts were correct. Unfortunately Mr Jacoby is no longer among us but his widow, Lotte Jacoby is living in Stockholm and so is their daughter.

I had a telephone conversation with Lotte Jacoby before the Xmas Holiday. She was a very charming old lady. Unfortunately she could not at once place Mr Rabkin from the information I related to her. We decided that I should send her a copy of the letter you sent to me, hoping that would help her to refresh her memory. So I have done. This means that she has got Sol Rabkin's address and possibly she has written to him. She was going to leave Stockholm for a vacation trip in the end of December and come back some time in the middle of January so I have not had any possibility to contact her since the first phone conversation.

I also asked her about the rescue of the Danish Jews and told her your were interested. Unfortunately she does not have any first hand information about the events since she was abroad. She said that there are a number of books about it and that there has been a discussion about to what extent the people who helped the refugees did it out of human compassion or if they made a business on it.

I told her briefly about your investigations in the Kennedy assassination. She showed a spontaneous interest in the subject. I gave her your address too if she for any reason would like to contact you. I am not sure that she does, but if you would like to ask her something more here is hers:

Lotte Jacoby
Skånegatan 92
S-116 37 Stockholm
SWEDEN

Her phone number is 08-40 31 10. (08 is area code for Stockholm.
Probably you do not use the zero if you call from the US.)

Could you please forward her address and phone number to Sol Rabkin. I have of course got a permission to give it to both you and him.

Now something else.

You asked me to send Swedish clippings about the Kennedy assassination. Enclosed are the front page and an article from # 25, December 13 1990 of not so well-reputed weekly magazine Z, published in Stockholm.

I also enclose a column from the Culture and Debate section of Dagens Nyheter December 15. Dagens Nyheter is a prestigious Stockholm daily. The writer refers to the Z article as "undoubtedly a scoop". (The column is not a letter to the editor; it is published in a place where editorial staff and temporary collaborators alike make comments about recent events.)

I am sure it is not a scoop, but I would like to to hear from you about it.

Z publishes, as you see, a number of photos which are claimed to show the dead president. The magazine has got the from a man called Ron Laytner. Laytner claims, according to Z, that the pictures are really decided to be secret until 2039 and that they come from "the intelligence service".

According to Z, Laytner told that he got the pictures in his hands through an intermediary while working with a story about Roscoe White. Z also publishes a story by Laytner about White which describes him as the murderer who in his turn was killed by the CIA. (You told me in an earlier letter about the non-existing credibility of Ricky White, so naturally my suspicions were aroused in relation to Laytner.) As you see there is first an introduction by Z journalist Bert Willborg, then the article by Laytner and then a postscript by Z, presumably by Willborg again.

In the postscript the readers are told that Laytner is on a European tour selling the pictures and the White story. "It is always best to get out the story abroad first", Laytner is quoted to say when asked why he has not published his findings in the United States.

Since the White story is not exactly new (and obviously not serious either), I guess Laytner is a fraud. Moreover I cannot understand why it would be better to go to Swedish magazine of at least dubious reputation if you have some real hot stuff about the Kennedy murder - instead of publishing them in the States. At least right now when they print any true or false revelations of this kind in the States as you told me.

Maybe the truth about the photos - whatever it is - could be interesting in itself and possible to inform Swedish newspaper readers about. I would be very glad if you told me what you know.

More about Laytner: he is presented as a contributor to "big national American publications" and the writer of a book called "Up against Howard Hughes: the Mahen Story".

Finally on this: on page 22 in the Z article is published what is described as the X-ray picture of president Kennedy's skull. It shows great damage done to the right half of the face. Z says that the picture originally was published by US Congress in 1979.

In the postscript "the sceptical editorial board of Z" (their own words) asked famous Swedish coroner Jovan Rajs about the X-ray picture and the pictures claimed to show the undamaged face of the dead president.

Rajs says that the X-ray shows complete damage round the right eye while the other pictures show no damage around the right eye and also he recognizes them as showing John Kennedy.

I wait for your comments.

Thank you also for the documents you sent me earlier. I really appreciated "Find out who Sartre is!" I will ask you more about the other documents when I have time to think about them more systematically.

I hope to hear from you soon. Also I hope that the expected war in the Persian Gulf could be avoided. According to my thinking, Saddam's brutal invasion of Kuwait is not a sufficient reason for other nations to start a war which could lead to a bloodbath of horrible proportions.

Still, with best wishes for 1991

Gunnar Wall

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