

Dear Jim, enclosed letter to Zebra

3/27/77

Because there is every reason to believe that Zacharias does not know some of the assassination characters as we do I made no mention of what I heard within the past few days:

He has Don Freed on as a sort of talent scout for the west coast, to see what publishable stuff he can come up with.

I do not assume that the Freed we know is known to these people as the Freed we know. I have no reason to assume this.

If it is an old arrangement they have not gone for his part of Executive Action on his dreck on Robert Kennedy is it is newer.

He is still expecting to hear from them on his King book. His explanation is that there is some kind of hangup. If he expected them to go for it he'd never have given his serialization to the entirely unimportant The Black Panther. From this I take it he is talking brightly among the press but really has no reasons to expect Zebra interest in his Operation Zorro. With any expectation on the book he would never have let Cohen join with Lifton with part in New Times.

The fact is that I do not know he is west-coast associate editor of whatever he claims to be. I have heard he has made this kind of claim, no more.

Therefore I deal openly with Walter and ~~him~~ if there is no reason to hope to be alert in the future. I see no reason to believe there is no reason to trust them.

Walter did not come across to me as some kind of shady character.

Best,