

Dear "art",

1/22/81

Your 20, the help I had with the records is past and I'll not be able to check the month, 10 instead of 11/18. However, you understand the purpose for which I sent you and Jim copies: makes liars of them, even to a Smith, I'd like to hope. Would to the appeals court if you get it in the case record.

If my recollection is correct, I also have 89-43-105, got it earlier, and you may want to see it. However, I think I may have checked it before sending those down.

On how early the FBI knew of LEO's Wuban contacts, remember, it and the CIA were both housed in the same embassy, so she could easily have known as fast as the CIA did, especially if the CIA wanted some FBI checking done in D.C.

If you have time you may want to familiarize yourself with my CIA files if you do get here within the next month. I've enclosed a carbon of a letter to Paul.

I've been reading the Lifton book but I began with his sickness about the caskets. I've read from there to the end and now I've read over 100 pp from the front. It is as dishonest and as deliberately dishonest as any of us can get. He uses the "Mark technique" of not crediting the work he steals and goes farther: Whitewash never appeared. He even lies about its contents, saying that they are unpublished until after it came out, but to where I've gotten, much as he has taken from it, he hasn't mentioned it.

The explanation of the caskets is simple: besides his using undependable sources, and I'm willing to believe selectively, he forgets that it would have been entirely normal for there to have been three caskets: the one from Dallas, one the MDW could be expected to have sent and the one from Gawler's. The rest of his case is higgwash. As a touchstone to his deliberate dishonesty: he makes a big thing about the funeral of the colonel his dubious characters said was to be buried the next day. He had one of his flunkies check with Arlington cemetery and quotes the response as saying merely that no colonel was buried that day. Well, NOBODY was because they do not inter there on Saturdays.

It is a bad and a hurtful book and it will bring further discredit on all of us. He has the other side trick of lumping all critics together. To now, where he refers to what he says the critics said and thought. I've not seen one thing that applies to me and I've seen a fair amount that does not reflect what I said, wrote or thought.

He is a swine, which I guess defames pigs.

Best wishes, inc. to Kevin,

PS it would ease the crowding in my files and the time I have to stand to file, when I can tolerate virtually no standing, if you'd cut the legal pad paper to letter size. Mine are letter-size files and you left more than that amount of space blank on the first page.

P.O. BOX 9532
WASH. D.C. 20003
JAN 20, 1981

Dear Harold,

I thank you for the recent FBI docs on Oswald in Mexico. 89-43-15 is certainly the government's starkest admission of the CIA's photo surveillance in MC. It might be of some use in my case. By the way, this is first time I've ever read about and 10/2 photos.

89-43-104 is equally interesting. The first deletion is probably something like "this individual MADE A TELEPHONE CALL FROM the Cuban Embassy to the Russian Embassy." If so, it indicates very early knowledge by the FBI of Oswald's Cuban contacts, which supposedly weren't known until after the assassination. The second deletion definitely has something to do with the tape, but the reference might be to a transcript and not the tape itself.

Your last letter included a note from a student about a search log in 11/18/63 LEGAT to Director cable. It appears from student's note the date mixed up. The proper date is 10/18/63. If your assistant gets the chance, could he check again?

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Jim and I had fun at Sifton's press conference. Sifton came across OK, but both he and his publisher seemed a little tentative in pressing his "thesis" as he put it. I'm still making my way through his lengthy book, so I'm not sure what to make of his "medical forgery" hypothesis. Do you have any comments at this point?

Please continue to send me any other Mexico docs of interest. Hope your leg is tolerable and you're getting around. Hope to be out your way within the next month.

Best,
Mark