

orig under cover

5/16/70

Dear Jim,

Glad to hear from you and that land of pleasant livin'. I always planned a trip to less Christian but never had the time or the spare cash.

My step-brother knows Ronnie and thinks he is a nice guy. + never had time to look him up when I was there because there was always something that seemed more pressing.

There are a number of areas in which Ronnie could help, at least by adding to our knowledge. However, I don't believe he will be reluctant to do this for several reasons, none of which would be valid and none of which he will be willing to believe are invalid.

He may fear "getting involved". Almost all the people I interviewed agreed to the interview on tape and, as you realize, none is "involved" in anything.

He may fear the consequences of his involvement with reacas, but there is no cause to. ~~XXXXXX~~ Arceche, without doubt, screwed Ronnie as he did everyone else, beginning with the Batista government and many well-meaning friends in H.Q., including even FBI informants.

He may think this is some anti-conservative operation, which it certainly isn't. Some of the most serious workers on my side are devoutly conservative in belief and my good friends.

He may or may not know that Arceche's organizational funding, whatever there was, came from the CIA. I doubt if anyone known what came and for only Arceche would have told and he could n't have and sought local funds.

I have a deep interest in why Oswald wanted a job with Ronnie. He'll probably think it is because Oswald was a red, which he wasn't, and wanted to spy. In actuality, despite the stupidities and propogande of the Bringuiera, which find acceptability among those who do not know, Oswald hated both the Russian and the US Communists. He was closest to an Orwellian in belief. I'd like to know what Ronnie knows about any of this, why Oswald used the 544 Camp address, why he was in the building, the real story of his Cuban contacts, sought and consummated, but those who know either will not talk or make propogande. Did he ever see Oswald with others, especially a reporter? Or anyone who looked like Oswald. Did he see Oswald's literature distribution, and anyone with him. It was across the street from Ronnie's office several times. Ronnie's address is marked in Oswald's notebook. Of course, it is also the address of others. Has Ronnie any idea who it might be? I've never gotten around to checking the directory for those months.

My mind has been far from these matters for a while. My writing has been in other areas and most recently I've been involved in suing the government over its suppressions. One case has come up. Eyeball to eyeball, they blinked. I won when they admitted they had what I sought and gave it to me, without trial. They apparently felt they had to avoid an official court record of what they knew I'd be able to prove. And this way they avoided much unfavorable publicity.

While writing I've been thinking. I suppose the real reason I never got around to asking Ronnie to speak to me is because I knew it would take time to earn his confidence, that he'd begin suspicious, especially if he'd heard the rather extensive of lies, including those from the Congressional Record, and neither of us had much chance of finding that much free time at the same time.

I wish it had been possible, though, for there is no doubt in my mind he is entirely a different kind of person, with more maturity, better judgment and probably, in retrospect, better understanding.

There is now little likelihood I'll be in New Orleans again soon and without a car I'd not find it easy to get down to the coast. If I ever do and Ronnie thinks he may know something that would be of value, I'd like very much to speak to him. Meanwhile, if there is anything he'd like to communicate, I sure would appreciate your good offices.

I know of the harm Camille did him. Hope he was covered enough and is making a good comeback. Please give him my best wishes. Perhaps if he understands that all doubts preserved in history have a way of becoming accusations and he has a way of making a record that can be left, we might lay a few to rest.

Thanks and good luck.

Sincerely,