

Dear Alan,

8/7/84

Thanks for the update on efforts to amend FOIA.

I fear that for all their experience the ACLU people are naive. The CIA will interpret their amendment as an immunity bath. And get away with it.

Just as I sat down to write you my wife called to let me know that we are without water! A running toilet, just fixed for the umpteenth time, exhausted our well, so I await the plumbers, who were about to quit for the day.

My friend Ernie Berger did ask his son Henry if he recalled any relevant records in the Rosaldi archive and he doesn't.

My recollection of the official acknowledgment of the existence of CIA stations in the cities you list is not clear, except for Mexico City, which the CIA has admitted in FOIA disclosures. It may have admitted others, but I'm not certain. However, here is where the books it approved about which I wrote earlier is helpful to you, as well as the transcript of the Phillips deposition in the Freed case. (I have Jim's copy. My wife hasn't finished reading it.) The CIA was present to prevent unauthorized disclosures. I'm pretty sure that it and his approved book include Mexico City, London (as do several other books) Paris, Madrid and Lisbon. Yes, with great detail, in Ciudad Trujillo. And Smith's book probably includes them and others.

It seems to me that if you can show that it was aware of official disclosure, even indirectly, it might have some impact on the judge.

And the authorized books do this. Have you checked the so-called "The Real CIA?"

Please excuse the haste,

August 3, 1984  
P. O. Box 34071  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
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Dear Harold:

Your letter of the 24th was so detailed and informative that I will need a full week to digest it all! You are a great correspondent, one of the few who still knows how to write a letter. I thank you for yours warmly.

While I am mulling everything you said, I'll pass along some news and make a request.

The news is that Jim learned that HR 5164, almost an exact duplicate of S 1324 which the Senate passed by voice vote last fall, was marked up by the House's full operations committee on Tuesday and sent to the rules committee for inclusion in the floor agenda. In case you are unfamiliar with the legislation, it exempts the CIA from having to search for and process "operational" documents, which are defined as those of its directorates of operations and of science and technology and its office of security, apparently for all time. The CIA snookered the ACLU into supporting the bill, and the consensus is that the ACLU's backing has brought it thus far.

The reports of the Senate and House intelligence committees on the legislation, which read as though the CIA wrote them, are vague, uninformed, and full of the CIA's disinformation. One assumption in them is that by exempting the CIA's "operational" files, Congress will allow the poor, overburdened CIA to catch up with its request backlog, which of course the CIA has purposely created through its stonewalling. Jim and I are going to try to get the bill bottled up in the rules committee through various lobbying tactics and by stimulating articles in the press, but it is quite possible that whatever we do will be too late.

The request is for any references you know of to official documents revealing the existence of CIA stations in Mexico City, Ottawa, London, Paris, Bonn, Bern, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Madrid, and Lisbon. Judge Greene has ordered the CIA to disclose the existence of its station in Ciudad Trujillo a quarter-century ago because the Church assassinations report officially disclosed its existence in the early 1960s, but he allowed the CIA to delete any mentions of the other cities absent official disclosures of stations there.

Best regards,

  
Alan L. Fitzgibbon