

May 9, 1984
P. O. Box 34071
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Many thanks for your letters of April 15 and May 4.

As a matter of fact, I was quite unaware that the AFL-CIO has Serafino Romualdi's papers, and I shall certainly take a look at them in due course. My inclination would be to view them with some skepticism because of his CIA connection, but then they might yield a few tidbits about the CIA's involvement in the Galindez case. Perhaps they will shed some light on something that has long been a minor puzzle to me: why the AFL-CIA executive board adopted and publicized a strong resolution about the Galindez case many months after it had begun and at a time when it was receiving relatively little press attention.

I enjoyed reading your April 13 letter to the CIA's Larry Strawderman, who periodically sends me the same stiff and uninformative missives. For some time I have known from a non-CIA source that their station chief in Ciudad Trujillo held a series of conversations with a senior Trujillo official before Galindez disappeared about a Dominican agent then operating in this country. Recently I chanced to reread their Vaughn entries about the reports (all totally denied) that exchange generated, most of which were written before the kidnapping and all of which I could fathom from their dates. The entries said that the conversations took place because the Dominican's information might be relevant to Galindez' disappearance or Murphy's murder--events which had not occurred yet. With a straight face I wrote the CIA asking about this discrepancy, and today I received the following reply: "With regard to the first question in your letter, the 14 September 1979 Owen affidavit speaks for itself." Nothing more. As you know, it is very difficult to prove bad faith on the CIA's part because they can cloak themselves in secrecy so much, but their Vaughn passage about this series of documents does strike me as deliberately misleading.

Please don't worry about the matter of the abstracts. Though I had not been aware of them, your letters, a conversation I had with Jim Lesar, and a paperback he gave me called Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been in the FBI Files explain them completely.

Sincerely yours,



Alan L. Fitzgibbon

Dear Mr. Fitzgibbon,

5/14/84

Re the Rousaldi papers, it is Professor Henry Berger, History Dept, Washington University, St. Louis who did the doctoral thesis when he was at Madison, Wisc. I do not know whether he made any notes on Galindez/Murphey records and I do not know how willing he would be to be helpful now. People sometimes change with the years and for a reason I never understood, he declined several offers to have the thesis appear as a book.

I don't know how those records are filed but if there is any trouble locating them, the AFL-CIO had a Latin American operation of some kind. The global one was or still is, I think, the IOFTU or International Federation of Free Trade Unions. Irving Brown was Rousaldi's counterpart in Europe/Africa.

As I remember it, Virginia Tehas, who was Meaney's secretary, opened those files for Henry. I'm sure she retired years ago.

You say it is very difficult to prove bad faith on the CIA's part. This is not my experience. What I find very difficult is getting any judge to consider overwhelming proof of it. I have caught them lying repeatedly but alleging it only angers the judges, who are unwilling to face such issues and facts.

My memory may be playing tricks but it suddenly tells me that a left-wing paper I used to get until some crazy radicals took it over had some Galindez stories. It is the National Guardian, New York, a weekly. I am certain it had excellent sources on the Rousaldi/CIA ~~ESPAN~~ Guyana operation. It had a series of such articles while it was all happening. If Jagan and his wife are still around, they might have some knowledge of the Galindez matter.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg