

6/27/84

Dear offended Henry and Sissi,

Jim Lesar loaned me the transcripts of three days of the deposition of David A. Phillips by Melvin Wulf, who is defending Donald Freed in Phillips' libel action.

It has been so long since I had an active interest in the Mexico City material I am no longer certain of my recollection of it. However, because it is my recollection that only the Cuban electronic surveillance was officially admitted, Phillips' seeming admission that the USSR was also bugged attracted my attention.

So also did his statement that his and their first knowledge of Oswald at the Cubans came from an inside source. Which need not be a live person, awkward as the expression is if it had been.

I wrote a memo on the transcripts to Jim and I'm sending each of you a copy in the event it is of any interest to you.

From the time of the CIA's first releases I've suspected that Duran was an informer. I guess I'd suspected it earlier but the suspicion was not as strong as when I noted the CIA's strong desire that the Mexican cops not work her over again. After all, the CIA was teaching all these cops the fine points of such workings over and the benefits that could come from them. So why this great concern at CIA Langley for her wellbeing?

This suspicion was fortified when she was expected to testify before HSCA and then did not show up. And got away with it, without any protest from Blakey or it.

There is an oddity, something I do not easily explain to myself. From Phillips' testimony he a) was in charge of these surveillances and b) had them transcribed. However, when SA Eldon Rudd (later Congressman) flew through the CIA gave him to Dallas, the FBI records do not include reference to his having any transcripts and they do seem to say that in response to FBIHQ's directive the Dallas FBI prepared its own transcript. I fail to see any normal reason for the Mexico City Station and Phillips failing to include the transcript and it gets around the CIA's unsupported claim that the tape was destroyed. (The Dallas FBI records do not include any one referring to either the return of the tape to CIA or sending it to HQ.) The destruction of the tape leaves the transcription of it undestroyed. I'll be taking this up with Jim because the tape and transcripts are with a still-litigated FBI FOIA suit and within not fewer than two of my CIA requests. I'll probably file two new appeals, with copies of Phillips' testimony, and then consider a simple suit against both the FBI and CIA. Much as I do not want to file any new suits.

Best wishes,

To Phil Melanson and Paul Hoch from Harold Weisberg re enclosed memo to Lesar, 6/26/84

If either one of you can resolve the uncertainty of recollection I reflect in the 3rd paragraph I'd appreciate it. I've always believed that the CIA had both the USSR and Cubans bugged but I also seem to recall that only the Cuban bugging was disclosed. ...I've always suspected that the CIA had an inside informer with the Cubans and from the time of the CIA's first releases, I've suspected Duran. This comes from the CIA's great concern that the Mexican police not work her over a second time, in that release. Because the CIA taught police how to administer these workings over, my belief was that they did not want her abused again because she was their informer. I'm at a loss to find any other explanation for their expressed concern for her physical wellbeing.