

Dear Pearl,

10/19/72

As I wrote you, I consulted a friend about the Striso/China/narcotics stuff you swallowed. His reply is enclosed. I hope you will pay serious attention to it and do a lot of the kind of thinking I've been suggesting.

This man is my age, has spent a lifetime as a reporter all around the world, with considerable experience in the orient. More important than his extensive experience is the kind of man he is, the kind of head he has and what it has put together for him in a lifetime of observing people, forces, politicals and various forms of government.

I read his letter some hours ago, while I was waiting in my car for a nephew I was taking around today. Since then other things have been on my mind. I'm doing this on a break from cleaning up the cellar. (We never really finished moving in when we did five years and 19 days ago. I have to make room for the copies of FRAME-UP I'm buying from the publisher - say he, for all the world as though he'd raised the money to pay for them!) My recollection may not be clear. The one thing I think may not be included is what I am certain I addressed earlier: principle. Even the most extreme have principle. I call those of the far-right here the "dedicated wrong" in FRAME-UP, and it was not merely a phrase I hoped would be catchy. It is the reality. So also does the present Chinese government have principle to which it adheres as the most devout to a religion. There are some things it simply will not do. I think this is one.

I don't really care if Striso is some kind of an agent for somebody. The world is full of them. Many of them are also True Believers. I have had no interest in him for years. He gave me all I needed for a reading on him, as I'm sure I told you, years ago. It then came out not good. Once I decided this, anything else was irrelevant. Agent, shmagant, able ehr guakt night, if you recall the old joke. My concern, rather, is for you and your work, any waste of your time, misdirection of your effort or the doctrine of your writing - that you not be made an innocent instrument of anyone with propaganda interests or any others.

If nothing else, Striso fits the workings of The Department of Disinformation perfectly, the one fault being a little carelessness that could have been induced by an assessment of you as unusually naive, perhaps apolitical, too. And trusting.

You referred to his ms. I said only that I'd not heard of it. Can you give me an idea of the subject, I mean if the JFK assassination, then a bit about what he says.

Best regards,