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2/5/73

Dear Maurice,

Having just read Lee Lockwood's "review" of your The Rise and Decline of Fidel Castro, I write before I have a chance to forget to send you a copy.

Last I'd heard of you was long ago, by reading a piece in the old National Guardian. As Lockwood manages to avoid reference to your most significant credentials, so also does he tell me where you are (but British Columbia is a large place!).

Somehow, with "controversial" books only partisans or enemies are selected for reviewing, when the books are not ignored. I've had my own experiences, almost all of which make Lockwood appear to be your strongest booster.

I have done more writing than seems possible in an unwelcome field, political assassinations. This includes the only book not in support of the official mythology on the King assassination and most of the solid work on JFK's. I had to invent the underground book to open the subject of the Warren Report and was my own publisher with my first three. If you have a spare copy of your's, I'd be happy to make a trade with you. From my experience, watch the count carefully. My first book, WHITEWASH, was a best-seller in my edition and in Dell's. They haven't paid me most of the money due me. I have copies of editions they have not admitted printing.

In this bankrupting work, which would make an invaluable archive from some unafraid university, I have had interest in Castro and in ravanist Cubans. The latter have given me little choice for they are involved in the official investigation and have harrassed me with spurious lawsuits. So, to get the cases tossed out of court and to learn more about them, I have had to investigate them. I must have more than a hundred pages of FBI reports about and of interviews with scores of them.

~~All~~ refugees, indeed, not all veterans of the Bay of Pigs, are now anti-Castro. Some of these have been helpful to me. Any not overtly anti-Castro were given a rough time by the FBI and the Warren Commission. Conversely, if they were anti-Castro, they could get away with anything and did, including running the asses off FBI agents with manufactured bum steers.

A study of their evil influences in this country would be worthwhile. It is now beyond my capacity, but I'd be glad to help if you know anyone who might be interested, perhaps for a thesis. I have extensive files on this. If it is unknown to you, they have pretty much taken over the day-to-day operations in the narcotics field. Their part in the Watergate scandal is not fully public. unt, by the way, is doing his own book on the Bay of Pigs. He may have written it. He was in CIA after our day, in Mexico City and Montevideo 1957-60, with a State cover (attache and consul). If you know anyone who might know about his careers there, I'd be interested because later he was engaged in domestic intelligence and appears to have killed a deal I had for my first book a year before I brought it out myself.

It has been years since I've heard from any of our former co-workers, except for an occasional Xmas card from the Rogerses.

Js, Maurice Happerin was Latin American Division Chief in OSS, a brilliant scholar and a very practical yet warm man. UC Press is publisher. He has been the subject of endless harrassment, with the US government finally driving him out of Mexico, where he had built a new career. The review says he went from Cuba to Moscow. He was driven from Oklahoma State and Boston Univs for political reasons, as he was from a representation at the UN. Went to Mexico from UN.

Good luck!

Harold Weisberg