

Paul Hoch
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2/4/93

Dear Paul,

Sorry to hear you had to have a hernia fixed and that it dragged you down for a while.

I've been through that many times and we do come back. Sometimes, with some of these things, there are exercises that can help if permitted. Otherwise it takes time. Patience.

The defectors paranoia is the record I remember. I remember that I thought it was Solitsyn and then realized it wasn't and thought it might be Deriabin and then forgot that. My forgettry is pretty good.

On the CIA's questions to be asked ~~of~~ of the USSR, State filed strong objections that I also have somewhere. Could you have that under State?

I fear that all my problem is not that I forget or that students make mistakes in filing and shifting files. Those who use them also take liberties, alas. Even when they have unrestricted use of our copier.

Your hunch on Legend was good. I enclose p.25 of the prologue and the essentially meaningless page of notes. I notice that some of the notes are ridiculous, ~~like~~ like See Commission executive minutes. There is nothing relevant in his appendix. And no indication of any relevant content in Reasonable Doubt. I wonder if Liebeler told Lifton anything about that? I think he may have been Epstein's source.

I've not been involved in the Groden-Livingstone flap but there are others, L and Lifton for one and L is off on a series of nutty assassination conspiracies in which he believes. He has been terrible to Mary Ferrell and indicates he includes me and actually got some letters he does not understand and misrepresents. But he has been silent for a while. Perhaps the publisher's lawyer laid it out to him.

When I went over the records I got from the FBI as I got them I did make extra copies for subject filing of some but it was not possible to do as much as I'd have liked to and then my limitations did limit me. But I can check some things from that subject file. I also got the Dallas index, after much effort, and then Bud got a copy with no effort. Remember that and ask AARC to do the checking for you. It includes the acknowledged main files only for a little more than the first year. It is by name and cites the record by the DL file identifications. Problem there is that so many were "previously processed" in the FBIHQ records and are ^{there} not in the disclosed DL records. But it is a real help.

Aside from boxes, of which there are many, there are now about 60 file cabinets.

I'll be losing what hope is only a little time soon with a polyp examination/removal. Ordinarily outpatient but not with my blood-clotting problem and the required anticoagulation. That can make it tricky, is not also risky. Please do not mention it so I won't have more letters to answer. I still keep up on them....What you says is that the girls are growing up and you and Sue can't keep up with them. Normal, of course! Best to them all. If you can remember any more, thanks, and if you are unusually tired check it out. Best,

Harold

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Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold,

Again, my apologies for being out of touch. I copied the enclosed two pages from Rankin's undercover-agent memo (my #G.6), as requested in your letter of December 20, before I got your letter of December 27, saying that you had found them.

I then set that letter aside, since I did not immediately know where to look for the other documents you asked about, hoping to get around to a proper catch-up letter soon. Among other things, I was out of commission for a week after a routine hernia repair.

Anyhow, I've now looked through my main lists of CIA documents, and all I could find was item ???-76 (enclosed), the 11/27/63 comments of a Soviet defector. The reference to Golitsin on p. 2 suggests to me that he was not the source. My notes suggested that the source was Peter Deriabin, who on November 26 made vaguely similar comments to the FBI. (CD 49, pp. 41-43, enclosed.)

I have no specific recollection of the draft questions to be asked of the USSR; in any event, I did not come across it in my notes. Perhaps there is a specific reference in "Legend" or "Reasonable Doubt."

I can usually keep up with requests for specific documents, but I'm not doing as much else as I would like. If you have any old pending requests, let me know; there might be some which I will discover eventually but I don't see a note to myself to deal with them.

1992 was not a good year; I'm sure you heard about the death (just a year ago now) of my good friend Robert Ranftel. I've also been quite overextended in my programming job, working closer to full time than I would like. I didn't come up with an EOC for 1992, although I hope to have one out before the Chicago conference in April. I've got a large box of unsorted clippings and document from the last year. And I keep running into unanswered letters from 1988 and 1989.

One small benefit of being so busy is that I've stayed out of things like the Groden-Livingstone flap.

I do enjoy your letters and was pleased to see you on TV a week or two back (Fox's program on the Ray case). A nice basement you've got there; if it's not full now hopefully it will be soon - although it would be nice if someone else could pick out any really interesting new documents for people like me.

The family is fine; Beth is now a sophomore and has taken up "mock trial," which is somewhere between a debating club and - horrors - Future Lawyers of America. Joanna is 8 already and cheerful, but Sue and I are still mostly worn out.

With best regards,

Paul

PLH