

Pete Johnson  
1170 Stroud Ct.,  
Westerville, OH 43081

5/4/94

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Perhaps it is part of an answer to your questions to tell you that as I <sup>note</sup> it, Case Open was 4-5 times longer and had the title Hoax: the Gerald Posner/Random House/CIA JFK Assassination Exploitation.

There is no way of knowing with any certainty why the major media and much of the minor just fall in line behind any support for or endorsement of the official JFK assassination mythology. I think perhaps the most certain reason is that it covers up ~~for~~ ~~the~~ for their failures, for their endless <sup>or</sup> earlier support for all that junk.

I think that Random House just assumed this would be the case and found out they were correct in their assumption.

I do not, however, believe that any media support for the official fictions is helpful to sales. The people have more common sense. I therefore know of no commercial reason that could have persuaded US News to pay what it did to be able to use Posner's crap. So that they would all go for such guff is not easily explained save perhaps that it makes them feel good to support official mythologies. And, of course, with some that crap is what they have always believed and wanted believed.

I doubt the CIA did anything to help sell ancillary rights.

There are some things we have no way of knowing. I do not know what the sale of the Posner stuff is in hardback or in ancillary rights. I'm inclined to think it was disappointing in hardback sales, exciting in the sales of secondary uses.

Sorry I can't give you more of any answer.

Best Wishes,



Mr. Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, Maryland 21702

May 1st, 1994

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have just finished "Case Opened" and I want to thank you for making the effort to write that important book, considering the fact that the work you have done so far will be instrumental to future generations wishing to learn the truth, without prejudice.

As you know, I correspond regularly with your friend, Dave Keck. Dave disagree's with me some points, and I am eager to hear your opinion on one of those points if you are willing to give it. To preface this question properly, I am not asking for this "on the record" and do not plan on "using" it in writing or for any reason, as I know your writing deals in facts and not in opinions.

You have rightly pointed out that the CIA made Nosenko available to Posner. What I would like to know, in your opinion, is this: Did the establishment press (US News +WR, Newsweek, et. al.) use the book "Case Closed" as a basis for their articles out of journalistic laziness, stupidity, or just the desire to sell magazines; as opposed to the concept that both the book and the national press were "orchestrated events", planned well in advance.

I seem to be unable to phrase the question any better. But it seems to me a lot of specific actions need to happen on a government level (CIA), and on a corporate level (Establishment Press, Random House), in order to perpetuate this lie. Maybe a better way to ask the question is, if the CIA supported Posner's book, did it also support the favorable publicity that followed, and if so, how?

Again, I do not intend on using your response in any way, and I understand you have been careful not to speculate without a solid factual basis. But I know you must have an opinion on this matter.

Pete Johnson



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