

[Handwritten signature]

1/6/68

Dear Dick,

Your 12/30, postmarked 2/1, arrived today, with the enclosed undated Sprague letter. Both are important.

First I address the handwritten note you returned. Perhaps it is Murr, but I think you are interested in the Paris Match pictures. That note says "I think the identity of the French photographer with Lady Jean Campbell is in QD 1281 (Ex 1354 or 5), Paul Mathien 22H548".

A general comment: none of us is without error. The work we do is done in a field designed to induce and facilitate it, against people who are skilled in arranging it and entrapping. So, you will understand that first of all, I can be wrong, and second, when I criticize the conclusions of others, it is in no sense negative or derogatory.

Penn, who is a great, incorruptible and valiant guy, is inclined to shoot from the hip, not check things out, and confabulate. Dick is quite imaginative. He sees what I cannot on things that have yet to be established and, unless I am wrong, cannot be (as for example the Tramp pictures and the various positive identifications made of those in it, without any of the most basic work being done). If we kept book on some of these things, the record would not be comforting. A tremendous amount of time and effort has gone this way, and to the enormous degree Garrison and his office have been involved in it, it has been ruinous. I cannot give more detail of this by this too-public means.

Frankly, I cannot believe any mature, experience men would have gone for what evolved as "Farewell America" even before he saw it. I do not see how anyone knowing anything at all about the material could credit it after reading it. I was in open disbelief (and not popular for it) as far back as February, when the reports had it an NKVD thing. I read part 3 in the summer and knew it was a fake as soon as I did, scholarly and polished or not. Stop and think for a moment: here are the guys who had access to one of the assassins in Mexico City. So, with this marvelous source, they have a single page of transcript on the assassination - and that will not stand alone or at all! Yet you should have heard such people as Garrison hold forth on it! He pissed away a fortune on it and it may yet cause a mistrial for him. That I will not have time to go into save to indicate it is with what the movie says and of the involvement of those connected with him with the movie.

Nor can I understand how men who have lived a few years in this world could begin to believe so elaborate a plot with so many unnecessary conspirators was necessary, or that the people allegedly involved would be so vulnerable. Their number alone guaranteed that. It just could not be. With individuals, it is so illogical as to be insane. It was all bait for us, and so many took it so avidly. Hunt. What an ideal selection, and Cohn, with their histories! Much too obvious manufacture, much too perfectly tailored. Naturally, Penn would go for it no matter what else it said if it went after Hunt. He believed that before the book.

These guys take whatever Garrison says as the given word. They are uncritical, do not do their own thinking (and too often he does none at all). Why the very means by which the ms was sent him should have made a

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My kindness to them that morning yielded high dividends in information. I was able, for example, to establish the worst, the very wrong connections, Lemarre has. Sorry, I cannot detail by this means. Vince made any further effort by me a futility. Lemarre will never again talk to me because he connects me with Vince, who was really terrible and paranoid. Also stupid. He called them both CIA agents, to their faces! Not that he knew anything, for he didn't, not a blessed thing!

The name Sutto you mention is new to me. Can you please get me all the details, if only from legal directories? Have you any way of getting any data on the firm? (Remarkable, a French law firm with the great coincidence of a 1066 phone number! Have they defended any of the extremists, the bombers?).

In short, Dick, not a single detail or fact you can get is too inconsequential. This is not French intelligence. It is intelligence. It is well-financed and cannot return the investment.

When you next tell me that Thompson actually does have Z, and I know they have Z in the movie of "Farewell", can you imagine how much you excite me? My initial reaction, when I read the SEPost contraction of his book, was that if he were not CIA they got their best job free. How many sources do you think there are for the Z film? Where could it have been "stolen" or obtained? Not from LIFE, the Archives or the FBI. That left only the CIA or, as you now say, Thompson had it. I was trying to learn from Lemarre whether they had Z10 when Vince crabbled it. That would have pinpointed more. However, I think may have had access to either version at LIFE, the copy being the more likely. LIFE also had a first copy, made in Dallas, and a black and white, made from the undamaged original, in Chicago. Your analysis indicates he is no closer than second generation, copy of the copy of the copy original at closest. But when you get to Trenton, carefully as you can, you know what to seek. Do not disclose any of this, for that will turn him (them) off.

You are right about Willis, but I am certain he is out of range by w 206. The rest of your paragraph interests me much. You realize I have been saying this from the first. But you reach your conclusions by other means entirely. Please do outline it. Remember, I've had another book that also goes into this, done for a year and a half, POST MORTEM. I have some of the secret stuff indicating a hit much earlier than your lowest figure.

I cannot imagine Popkin's silence if he has such pictures. I'd love them for COUP D'ETAT, which deals with all the assassinations, written in June and saying much of what Huie has since said. Trent also saw Huie. I have a friend whose judgement I have learned to trust pretty much who evaluates Huie as a very competent and equally bad man personally.... There is no end to the identities Sprague has for "Frenchy"... Another guess is that Huie got scared and will not deal with any of us. ... Now on those tramp pictures; I have information I cannot vouch for but from a source who has the means of learning that the arrests, if they were really arrested, were made other than at the TSBD. It was at the back of the Post Office. My Dallas phonebook tells me there is the "terminal" station at 207 S. Houston, certainly the closest. My map of Dallas tells me there is no street between Houston and the RR tracks at this point. Therefore, had the arrest been made there, the likely path would have been up the tracks to the Triple, thence to the police cars at the TSBD. I am more willing to believe this than anything I have heard from anyone else, none of which has any meaningful substantiation. Only endless wishful thinking and confabulation....

Is it not likely that Hoover got his pitch from Frazier, that they all assumed putting the sight back in exactly the same place (and how could they do otherwise?) led them to assume it would sight exactly the same way? You have to

look to who took the sight off. If I were making nominations, one, certainly, would be Day. Another the agent, I think Drain, who took it to DC. Is it not odd there is no record of any question being asked about this? Looking forward to your tracing that down.

Perhaps "Farewell" will be hurtful. I think if this is the case, we'll know at the trial, hence my acute interest in all I can get. I have some of the European names involved. Now I wish I'd followed the student protests against Springer better. Did they claim he was CIA by any chance? However, there is also the possibility it afforded us for a little intellectual judo. It has been applied. We'll have to wait and see with what result, if any. Further explanation will have to await possible future more direct contact.

Which reminds me: when you are in Trenton, if you are driving, you are only a little over three hours from here in light-traffic times. There is dual highway, mostly expressway, to three miles from our home. It's an invitation.

It is after my late bedtime, but let me bring you up to date on a few things. Today Shaw's lawyers made three motions, one for a change of venue, to be argued Friday, one to quash, and one for the continuance of bail during the trial, which was unopposed. The judge has announced court will sit from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, with an hour and a half off for lunch - six days a week. Resting on the 7th means court from 1:30-5:30 p.m. That will be rough. Today Leemans, voluntarily gave Garrison's office an affidavit saying he lied on the NBC show because he and his family had been repeatedly, anonymously threatened. He said those threatening him were followed by Internal Revenue agents who leaned and fortified, that, following the telephoned "advice", he went to Irwin Dymond, Shaw's lawyer, who told him to call day or night if he needed help, not to worry about bail, etc. He saw Dymond, who funnelled him to Sheridan, who taped him in Aaron Kohn's office, with Dymond present. He said he regretted the harm he had done an innocent assistant DA named Lee, who he had said, had bribed him. He said his conscience had been bothering him.

I expect to go to New Orleans about a week before the beginning of the trial and to be there through it. The pictures and X-rays have again been subpoenaed, and there may be a court hearing on that in Washington very soon. I do not know what Garrison has on Shaw. I know only what I know and believe. I am satisfied he is Bertrand.

Dick, a word not intended as derogation: learn to evaluate those of us with whom you are in touch. Some are not really solid workers, do not really stay on the ground. This doesn't mean they are not fine people, dedicated, willing, often doing important things. It does mean that some sure as hell tear off in all directions carrying too many too often with them. The influence of several such on Garrison was enormous-and very hurtful. They kept him from his homework, holding out great rewards in solving everything and becoming a great hero, and he trusted and believed them. So, remarkably little work was done in the one area he has jurisdiction. I believe that Bradley-Crisman stuff is crap, and so do I regard all these phoney preachers, Nagell, all that stuff he went for and spoke of as though he had personally verified it. He is one of the most trusting men in the world, with an unfeeling instinct for the wrong people. The wonder is he didn't ruin everything before this and from this. I do not believe Boxley was still CIA, as Jim charged, but to me it makes no difference. He could not have done more harm had he been. Turner was in the same boat. Between them not a single verified thing that can go to court, and endless diarrhea of attractive fictions, and a monster diversion that weakens the case now coming up. Did they have to be agents. Is it not enough if they are sick, or wrong or anything else? Their record is flawless. Not a single worthwhile thing, and they account for the expenditure of most of his time, money and effort.

All of this is strictly between us, unless you are face to face with Gary Murr. No others.

By the way, if and when you get the French version of "Farewell", see if you can interpret the dedications and credits, which are first-names for the U.S.

The movie was originally scheduled for 11/22/68. It did not come off. It did not arrive. Lamarre said he would fly with it personally and then silence. Now something else was scheduled for 11/22 - and it didn't come off. It had been carefully arranged by some supposedly on our side who I think are of 100% evil influence, regardless of motive. What a coincidence! But Lamarre was in the US and in New Orleans 17 days later, with the story he had almost died but the complete change of his blood had saved him. I tell you, it was a remarkable recovery - and how very fast!

He did a stupid thing, but probably one he thought he would get away with, having decided we were all fools and self-deceivers, based on his estimate of those he had met and Garrison. He had a showing for the critics, some of whom, like Maggie and Ray, knew the material. And by that time they had enough of an idea what had happened in New Orleans. So, they tore him up something terrible. I understand at that point he gave up and flew back to Europe. However, if he is in touch with you - which I doubt will now happen - please be friendly, reveal none of this, and learn what you can. He is vain, convinced he is superior to others, makes little effort to hide his lack of regard for others, is well educated (London School, PhD, specialist in oil!) and, I am satisfied, is or was intelligence.

Now there are not too many "former" French - or any kind - of agents kicking around. Generally, it is mutually beneficial for the relationship to continue, if I may be subtle. A whole bunch of them getting together on an unprofitable, offbeat project requiring a very large investment and yielding no income is most improbable, to me at least. Therefore, I conclude they are not former, and their connection is not French.

If some of this is not pleasant, it is sincere and I am convinced it is accurate. Make your own judgement. Do not let it throw you. Probably worse news is not too far in the future. We will survive it. I now have ~~xxx~~ so much that is so awful and so entirely beyond question the only (and what a big) problem is getting attention for it.

Have a real good year.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg