

2.23.68

Dear Mr. Mackal,

Please understand the brevity of this brief response to your letter of 2/18. I've been working until 5 a.m. to get up and keep up with my mail and other chores. My wife has a severe ankle sprain that will have her restricted to almost no movement for a month, so I'm running the house, caring for her, handling the shipments, etc., in addition. Little time.

With the broad doctrine of your theory, I have no dispute. With the specification, I do. Some of it is obvious, some does not.

It gets a little into what I plan for TIGER TO RIDE, but only in the basic concept, and there only in part.

As of now, I wish I were back on that book. It is broader and I think of greater significance. I do so wish it were done and out now!

Many thanks. Your ideas are interesting, and if you have any more, I'd welcome them.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Feb. 18, 1968

Dear Harold,

May I continue my discussion with you about the political consequences of the assassination of J. F. Kennedy?

First of all I feel I should explain why I have been anxious to give you my views. I am very busy writing two books now and looking for publishers to my first completed manuscripts--ESSAYS IN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY and THE PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIANITY. I just do not have the time to write a manuscript on the political consequences of the assassination of the President. Or on the various theories of how and why he was assassinated.

Keeping up on the subject is not too easy either, I must confess, and my mind is a bit too scholastic for the task at hand...

I have limited my reading to your works. I am willing to comment on OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS [no criticisms at all] because its contents verify much of my theoretical sketch in my first letter to you of January(?). It just might be valuable to you for me to outline some of the important connections between your book as pure fact and my theory as pure theory. This will also afford me an opportunity to enumerate the causes and effects of my theory assuming it is fact... A dubious undertaking but not without value...

Oswald was blackmailed. He was working for the CIA or a right wing group (this right wing group could be involved directly or indirectly with the CIA). His purpose for working in the CIA or... would be to scare and blackmail Cubans--esp. those who were beginning to feel the harsh responsibility and reality of being a Cuban exile involved in counter revolutionary activity. Men who had eagerly volunteered for an invasion force but who were disillusioned by the failure of the Bay of Pigs and were looking for ways to get out of the unofficial roster of CIA agents... This required that Mr. Smith (S. Arcacha) was a partner to Mr. Oswald--Lee Harvey. Conceivably he was also a partner of (1) the CIA or (2) the false Oswald! The false Oswald, Leon, is no doubt the blackmailer of Lee Harvey working for the CIA. He is also Oswald's cover man or back up man who is required to do the job well when Oswald, Lee Harvey, does poorly. He also is required to set up situations which will make Oswald look like a patsy. Col. Castor and Gen. Walker are also involved in this activity of scaring the Cubans into something violent... Clearly Oswald has had security clearance before and is most likely a double agent. Oswald cannot be trusted by the CIA or X agency working through the CIA but the false Oswald can--Seymour. The true Oswald seems to have been blackmailed this way--his wife was threatened with deportation...

The S. Odio story is very important. This is typical of the method Lee Harvey Oswald might have employed and the false Oswald in recruiting Cubans for the assassination plot.

It was necessary for Oswald to be killed and thus J. Ruby is part of the plot. I am convinced that Ruby was one of the assassin's on the grassy knoll area.

It is likely too that Clay Shaw and Ferrie are assassin planners if not direct accessories to the actual murderers rather than once or twice removed.

The false Oswald was an extravert and Lee Harvey was an introvert or ambivert.

All people who arranged meetings with these planners and or murders are also part of the group.

The false Oswald approached men who were well known for their reactionary affiliations. It is conceivable he approached many men before he hit on the right ones. Invariably ex-military men were selected. These men had interesting records and were also known to be involved with the Cubans. As Lee Harvey was attempting the impossible Leon was doing the possible...

In my opinion, as stated before, some military clique is behind it and has master-minded it. The purpose--the War in Veit-Nam. One might also credit to them the Gulf of Tonkin incidents and the North Korean incident of recent vintage.

The connections between the false Oswald and Gen-Walker might be fruitful. Conceivably some Gen. X, Admiral Y & Z,...could also be connect to the CIA on the one hand and Gen. Walker on the other. Assuming the Bay of Pigs was master-minded by the same clique who are behind Veit-Nam! This is the place to start!

So I feel my theory gets a certain amount of respectability from your facts and suspicions. As you have all the details you might try to apply my theory to other facts in your possession and move forward collecting the most important new facts without having to cover so much ground.

Thanks for listening to my views and best of luck to you on your efforts. You have my respect which is very simply the respect of a fellow author.

Yours,

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Paul K. Mackal  
