

16 March 1978

Dear Harold,

Thanks for the material you and Jim Lesar have sent me. I am enclosing some rather random notes I made on Epsteinker's book. These notes do not attempt to deal with Appendix A, "The Status of the Evidence", which is corrupt and perverted from beginning to end, utterly despicable. That is a main area for attack. The other large issue is, who commissioned Epsteinker to do this dirty job, who put up the virtually unlimited funds, who opened doors for him which were closed to everyone else, and whose purposes are served by a book which consists almost wholly of speculation, misinformation and disinformation and which attempts to incriminate the Soviet Union and/or Cuba?

I am going to Israel, for the first time, next month. I have some relatives there whom I know only from correspondence. I'll be back by the end of April.

Every good wish,

Affectionately yours,

*Sylvia*

Notes on LEGEND

Page 93: States Oswald departed London for Helsinki "as stamped in his passport" on October 9. Passport in fact is stamped "Departed Oct 10".

Page 333: States "oak tree...had no foliage" on 11/22/63. Photograph taken on that day shows tree in full leaf, no less so than in June 1964. See CE 900.

Pages 208, 209, 333: Introduces in text a new claim that witnesses Gary Taylor and John Bowen saw a rifle in Oswald's possession. Ostensibly that is based on Epstein's interviews with Taylor and Bowen. Taylor did not include this pivotal allegation in his Warren Commission testimony. Nor did Bowen inform the FBI or other investigators. Then, in a footnote, Epstein lists Gary Taylor and his wife, Alexandra Taylor, as having seen Oswald with a rifle--dropping Bowen completely, and introducing Alexandra, who was not mentioned in the text. All of these allegations are highly suspect for having surfaced only after 14 years passed, and so conveniently for Epstein.

Page 16: On the Mexican trip, he omits information on the CIA voice tape which the FBI said was not Oswald's voice, and which tape was destroyed by the CIA.

Page 17: Epstein is in conflict with Peter Dale Scott on the interpretation of the FBI document ("...we did not know definitely whether or not he had any intelligence assignment at that time..."). Epstein adds "(from the Soviets)" while Scott in "Crime and Coverup" (page 6) argues, from a US agency.

Page 94: Fails to document the allegation that Swedish Intelligence found evidence that Oswald had been in Stockholm to consult the Soviet Embassy.

Chapter V: Suggests that Oswald gave the Soviets the capability to shoot down the U-2 flown by Gary Francis Powers but it is known that the Soviets had that capability as early as 1958 (see Leonard Moseley's new biography of Allen, John Foster and Eleanor Dulles).

Page 69: Suggests that Oswald photographed "radar light-finding antennas" but provides no documentation for that allegation. Pure speculation.

Page 104: Also fails to document the allegation that Oswald forged the Hidell identification papers while working at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall. Reference to "bogus license under the name of O.H. Lee" is also undocumented and unclear--such a document has never been mentioned anywhere in the literature.

Pages 210, 317, 319: Regarding the alleged copy of the photograph of Oswald holding a rifle, supposedly inscribed by Oswald and by Marina, it is not clear whether or not Epstein personally saw that photo. His wording is extremely careful, e.g., he was given permission to see the photo. He does not assert that he saw it. If he did, why was it not published in the book? why was it withheld from the Warren Commission by the De Mohrenschildts in their testimony? What "handwriting analysis supports that" Marina inscribed the photo? Which expert? What date? Again, such late-surfacing "evidence" must be regarded as highly suspect.

Page 213: States that Oswald mutilated photo of car behind General Walker's house. It is clear from Warren Commission testimony that this photo when it came into ~~him~~ possession was unmutilated, and was mutilated only after it had been shown to Marina.

Page 213: The allegation about the mutilation of the Walker bullet is untenable. It was identified by the Dallas Police contemporaneously as a 30.06 and as steel-jacketed.

Page 219: Allegation that Oswald used the alias "Lee Osborne" is dubious. See Accessories After the Fact, footnote on page 182.

Page 219: Epstein disingenuously slides by "544 Camp Street" which some critics consider cardinal evidence of an Oswald link to right-wing Cubans and Americans and to US intelligence agencies.

Page 225: Like the Warren Commission, says that Oswald "asked to see an FBI agent" in New Orleans. Meagher unpublished paper casts doubt on that allegation; and the reasons for doubt are heightened by new FBI documents.

Page 230: Reference to "tax returns...removed from Jaggars..." not clear. Whose tax returns? Removed to what purpose?

Page 238: Re Castro's alleged statements that Oswald voiced threats against JFK while in Cuban consulate in Mexico City--at my request, Al Lowenstein discussed this with the Cuban delegation at the UN, which categorically denied this National Enquirer/Daniel Schorr fairy-tale and said it was beneath contempt.

Page 244: Description of the arrest of Oswald in the Texas Theater is not accurate. He was not in the second row, but in the second row from the back, and the policemen came towards him, in full sight.

Page 244: Re the Hidell card, see Accessories, chapter on Hidell.

Page 247: Much doubt exists about Oswald's palmprint on the rifle. Much doubt exists also about the arraignment of Oswald for the murder of JFK, on which see CD 5 page 400.

Page 251: Oswald did not lie about his trip to Mexico. See Accessories, chapter on the interrogation sessions.

Page 292: Note 17 is incoherent.

Page 300: Source notes for Chapter VI: re Oswald's refusal to take lie-detector test--It is not true that this was unknown prior to 1975. Oswald himself revealed this during the interrogation sessions by the Dallas Police.

Page 309: Footnote 18 is not coherent.