

JL- As best I can make it out, he did not mention the name of the book and instead of crediting us with all this work seems to have pinned it on the Post in his lead. He writes for 12 Dutch papers with a total circulation of a million. I'm risking almost \$3.00 on the postage alone in hopes he'll do more. What he says with dead seriousness is pretty wild. I'll bring the letter in.

12/17/74

Dear Mr. Meiners,

Friends at the Washington Post told me that there had been a call from a Dutch reporter but they knew no more. Apparently the person to whom you spoke is other than the one who told me. But I'm glad you got the information you wanted.

I'd be more than pleased to have the command of any other language that you have of English. However, after reading your letter several times I'm not at all certain about what you want and I'm taking a chance on a correct interpretation. I believe that you want this book from the first paragraph in particular. I have checked with the post office. It seems that surface mail is frightfully slow so I'm sending it at the least costly air rate, which should have it to you very soon. However, if you want any of the others listed in it and are not in a hurry, it may well be that with the special rate and by sea the mailing cost will be close enough to that in the United States so that the charges will be the same.

In order to bring this book out my colleague borrowed the money from the bank. We did not expect and do not have commercial distribution. Therefore, the sale of subsidiary rights - anywhere - is important to use because we do have this debt to pay and neither of us has a regular income. We have both been associated in the James Earl Ray defense, too, Jim, while junior counsel, doing most of the legal work and I as investigator. So, if you have contact with publications in your country that might be interested, I surely will be!

We are, in fact, so strapped that I have not sent out a single review copy. Past experience tells me that the professional reviewers ignore what does not come from a purely commercial publisher. We are such a position that we have to sell press copies. The Washington Post report<sup>97</sup> is the one who started this and others have followed. Radio stations that air me by phone, and they are as far away as Honolulu, have told listeners how to write me and the \$6.25 cost of the book, to avoid needless and time-consuming writing back and forth. All of this is encouraging to us, as is the total absence of nasty remarks I believe for the first time on this subject.

In the past we have had orders from individuals and book stores and I believe libraries in your country. So, if you have occasion to write of this book again, I'd appreciate it if you would include the directions on how to obtain it. It is, however, important that we be paid where it is not impossible in US currency. Here in the country-side conversion is a major and costly problem.

If I have misunderstood your desires, please just return the book to me by the cheapest means available to you. If I am correct, please add the actual postage on the package to \$6.00, not \$6.25 (which is for internal mailing only).

If you still have that clipping from the International Herald Tribune I'd appreciate a copy for filing and future use as a reflection of the attention this book did receive. I can recall none that received more extensive treatment and no case in which there was not some apology for officialdom or slander of those critical of it.

It is kind of you to offer me a copy of your book. However, its chief value would be to be part of the archive I will leave. I will not be able to read it.

So many people in this country have been speaking so irresponsibly they have, so to speak, poisoned the publishing well. This may account for the difficulty in finding an American publisher for your book. There was a prejudice against the subject to begin with and some fear. This wild talk has had an adverse influence in addition. I am sorry if you are an innocent victim of it.

You will soon be reading of more than the weekend's news about new interest in the RFK assassination. The New York Times has Crewdson working on that story, the Wash. Post Ron Kessler. While I have not heard from them personally and do not know how dependable their sources are, I understand that several Congressmen will be making motions or offering resolutions about the JFK assassination after the first of the year. And we are hopeful of success in court in the "ay-ling case. Our best wishes and thanks, Harold Weisberg. By the way, the address on the book is the full one.