

September 22, 1967

Mr. Richard Popkin
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San Diego, California

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your letter of September 15. When Bill Martin left here on September 1 he gave us all the material he had on X and this did not include the transcript of the trial. Nor do we have any reports of Bill's recent trip to visit X, nor his western trip.

The only material we have is what I already sent you about 3 weeks ago in a big manila envelope. Did you receive this:

I suggest the best thing would be for you to deal with Martin direct. I have tried time and again to reach him in the last 3 days, without success. His home "answering service" gave me a wrong number as his office phone, and his old trade mart office: say they don't know what his new number is.

I recently read through the X file, and I must say I am at a loss to understand why you evidently think there might be something important to this. When one bears in mind that he was in custody before Oswald went to Mexico, that he is in the everything-to-gain and nothin-to-lose position of all other prisoners (almost daily we get mail from prisoners all over the country with offers to identify Bertrand, etc.), and that he alleges possession of a tape recording of people planning the assassination which, even if it were located, would be of almost no value in view of the ease with which such a tape could be forged, this all amounts, in my view, to a very tenuous lead.

Mr. Richard Popkin
September 22, 1967
Page -2-

The information he provides about a Carcano in San Antonio is of interest as I recently had this corroborated by David Lifton. However, maybe Lifton got it from you.

We would be interested to know more about Phelan's visit, as he seems to be visiting all the critics, for some reason.

Hoping all goes well with you.

Best wishes,

TOM BETHELL

TB/leb