

Dear Paul (JL),

12/31/73

In R73-Cor.34, Raymond G. Rocca's 1 April 1964 non-letterhead, non-classified to "Mr. Stern," who I take to be Sam, there is reference to an "Attachment" and there seems to be none. All of this and each of the separate factors itemized interest me much. I write to get your ideas and any suggestions you may have especially about anything that you think, suspect or know may be relevant.

To simplify this for you, I quote the two grafs. The third is masked:

"Following our conversation of last Friday, I am attaching on a loan basis a copy of a small classified paper entitled: "A National Name Index Network." You will find it of interest, I am sure.

"If you are interested in earlier references (footnoted), let me know informally. Actually, they are not necessarily for your appreciation of the piece but we would be happy to make them available if you desire."

What followed next is his writing Stern 4/21/64 on a letterhead and with all kinds of non-stampable classifications to attach an entirely undescribed "dissemination" that really has to do with publication of books on the assassination and had an astounding dissemination - 10 top spooks/spookeries. There may be no connection. (73:36)

What in the world is a "National Name Index Network?" This is not the same as what would interest me much, a national name index. But a network can include all sorts of other things that might be quite titillating.

This is a fairly clear xerox, so I wonder that the file designations, upper right, are barely visible and entirely illegible.

"On a loan basis" is underlined by hand.

Why no letterhead?

Why no classification and no cancelling of classification?

Without it how could this have been withheld to begin with and why was it?

(Interestingly, the date stamp on 4/21 is 1963, which makes me wonder how that mistake could have been made if the days is advanced daily and nothing else is done.)

His practise was to have the full identification of the addressee on his letters.

Then why not on 4/1, not even Stern's full name?

This sheet was stapled in all four corners. !! ??

I assume Rocca expected Stern to have full understanding. Why mask anything for anyone else in the future? Why no letterhead, classification, etc.?

This can relate to something not of WC interest in which Jim and I have a joint interest, so I am more than usually interested in what captures the eye in these ways.

I began reading and filing from the top of this package the first time I had a few minutes. Other work is of higher priority here now. Yesterday we had company for dinner. When they were late arriving I started to read more of the papers. I came to this as they come to us and got no farther. If there is anything relevant farther down I haven't gotten into it and don't know but I assume that it is more or less together, if the Reggab stuff seems not to be. Or the Kara-Patnitsky. I think I sent you much on both in 1967 or 8.

For our immediate purposes - and Jim and I have been discussing them on each of our recent meetings - anything that can in any way have anything to do with either of these could be very helpful.

I also find it interesting that Karamasines, who is Deputy Director for Plans, not for intelligence, is the guy who does the memo holding straight publishing intelligence only. This makes me believe that the gathering of intelligence on assassination books was not a straight intelligence operation and that is provocative. Because of the US publishers involved, none of whom brought out the planned works, we have a handle for things in the future, JL please take note. Also that Houghton-Mifflin is "now doing two 'official' books on 'read-ident Kennedy with United States Government backing.'??? (Here I believe it is worth noting that neither Buchanan nor Gun got any kind of US sale. I believe that Morrow reprinted B but I'm not sure. My copy is the second British printing. For the time of appearance, both should have had good US sale. They received special attention?) Best. RW

Jim, neither one of us has time to do it now so I merely note for the future that we should have special interest in the file PUB 3. That might be possible now and if you do it I suggest sort of vaguely and not disclosing the reason for the interest would be asking Bob if the stuff he has gone over includes this file. It has subdivisions by agency. It is possible that he has gone over it and may have made copies of some of the contents that could have meaning for us that they may not have for him. I assume he did not spot what I have if he did go over that file because I would have expected to have heard from him if he understood the possibilities what I refer to in the unenclosed holds for us in general and me in particular. It also makes me think that the city directory checking has to be over a longer period for this is indicative of the possibility the operation I suspect this is part of was of longer existence than Barry indicated to me. A perfect fit is not impossible. HW 12/31/75