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Martin

1/14/72

Mr. Burke Marshall
Yale University Law School
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Marshall,

As you know, I am a writer, investigator and researcher who has devoted eight intensive years to what I think is by far the most comprehensive inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy and its official investigation. I believe I have completed more responsible writing on these subjects than all other serious writers combined. And you are the legal representative of the executors of the estate of the late President. In their name you entered into a certain agreement with the United States Government under which, under certain restrictive conditions, you undertook to transfer title to incompletely itemized evidence of that assassination.

As you also have long known, I have been working on a book dealing with those aspects of the crime and its investigation to which precisely this evidence is essential. I believe I am the only one to have undertaken a book on these aspects.

And as you should know if you do not recall, I am the first of duly-accredited researchers to have requested access to these materials and to the contract itself. I was denied access to both, in your name in the first instance. Long after I was refused a copy of this contract, it was leaked under exclusive conditions and in open violation of all regulations and law to The New York Times.

You have just arranged another exclusive leak to The New York Times and for an entirely-unqualified person to have exclusive access to this hitherto suppressed and now misrepresented evidence. I must include these things in my book, therefore I write you this letter and append to it a list of questions I hope you will answer, as I also hope you will volunteer information you consider a writer should have if I have not asked a question relevant to such information.

If you do not answer these questions within a reasonable time, I will consider myself free to use these questions in the book, along with the statement that after the lapse of the time I will specify you had not replied. If you consider any of the questions unfair or prejudicial, please so inform me. If I agree, I will rephrase them and use the rephrased questions in my writing, whether or not you then respond.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg