

Mr. Ulric Shannon
4815 Coolbrook Ave.,
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H3X2K3

8/15/91

Dear Mr. Shannon,

I have no recollection of either the "Peeters" letter to the FBI or of its response. Locating it is an impossible job for me now. There is no index.

You ask what I think of the story. I do not believe it, not any part except that perhaps someone wrote self-serving letters. All such letter sent to Robert Kennedy were automatically forwarded to the FBI. There thus should have been FBI responses.

I have no knowledge of what underlies this particular story, and there are innumerable ones like it in the political assassinations files (mostly King, with a live ~~def~~ defendant) and they appear to be spawned by the government's failure to really investigate the crimes and to report honestly on the ~~it~~.

In general I suggest that when ^{one} gets such a story he should first ask if it is reasonable and if satisfied that it might be, then to ask if it is possible. This yarn, like virtually all the others, fails both tests. I'm sorry I do not have time to expand on this. But perhaps the easiest way of seeing that it is made up is the fact that as of the time the last thing the USSR wanted was to get the hawk LBJ instead of the then-dovish JFK as President. JFK and Khrushchev had begun working their problems out. They exchanged about 40 lengthy letters after the Cuba Missile Crisis of 1962.

I am also suspicious of the blocking out of the seaman's name. If the FBI knew it, what did he have to fear from anyone else knowing it? I think the author was trying to make his story more provocative and suggestive.

And, obviously, this is a tale it is impossible to check out.

On this basis alone, no responsible publication would have published it.

My own belief is that when they are published and then further distributed among the many people who are deeply concerned about the political assassinations and their consequences, they become for all practical purposes disinformational and in this they do serve the interests of official miscreants who saw to it that the crimes would not be really investigated.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

