

Dear Bob,

5/17/88

Not long after I return from my daily physical therapy a friend I've been helping with some projects of his own is coming, I don't know for how long, and not to forget something I begin the letter I'll return to later. The matter of Oswald's MOS or military occupational specialty. I believe I told you that almost all the Keesler Field records relating to him allegedly no longer exist, which means that if true those records have to have been destroyed before the time for preservation had expired and after Oswald's alleged defection to the USSR. This does not appear to be kosher. So, did the investigation include Oswald's specialized training and if so, what turned up. He was one of five men in his radar outfit who had this specialized training and the higher security clearances. Of which no disclosed record holds any mention.

Resumed 5/19/88. On Don's belief of Hunt involvement, which others share, I suggest that he think about all of the known evidence, which certainly is not all there was, and decide whether they could have had the required knowledge about Oswald, would have had the job done in their own back yard, would have used an Oswald in any way, and visualized enough benefit to themselves to run the risks, which include being in bail to either th assassin(s) of those contracting them.

On Top Secret Oswald info in ONI file, said to be mostly related to surveillances after his return, there should have been additional TS stuff because LHO had that classification and did that kind of work. The investigation that should have been made after his defection required this classification. The file should have included the results of the investigation obviously necessary and made but not included in the disclosed records at the time of his alleged defection.

"Don knew that Gaudet was CIA and followed Oswald to Mexico." If "followed" means shadowed, I don't believe it is accurate. I also do not believe that any Gaudet would have been used to shadow Oswald. Political differences too great. I believe that Gaudet was contract not staff employee and that he had other connections. And that he was a right-wing nut rather than an authentic conservative. I think he did not go on the same day or the same plane because there is no reason to believe that Oswald took any plane. Indications are that Gaudet flew to Yucatan. I think the day after LHO left N.O.

I do not know whether or not the Army had Oswald index cards but I presume it did at least in Texas, where an intelligence first leaked Oswald information. However, if ONI was shadowing Oswald after his return it would have been aware of his N.O. activity and his use of the Hidell name then. It also would have investigated LHO's leafletting of the carrier Wasp. If ONI was watching Oswald it would have watched his mail and the receipt Oswald should have signed for the rifle did not surface in any investigation. I do not know that the ONI would have passed the information it got on to the Army only and there is no indication of this in any disclosed FBI records so it was not informed. With regard to Colonel Jones and his outfit, they could have remembered their file of Oswald clippings.

Re Mexico photos, CIA cameras, Don says what I've always thought, that there was no failing and that the pix have content the CIA wants to keep secret.

The conspiracy Don visualizes, oil people, mafia and part of labor, like Hoffa, is not new with him or contemporaneously with ONI but I think not applicable, individually or collectively. I do not believe that the way these things work there would have been any cartel and I see no need for any. I do not believe that any part of this conjectured cartel could have visualized enough selfish benefit to run the hazards inevitable in any such endeavors. The worst the oil people could imagine is that their profits might be a little less. Hoffa did not even make any effort to revenge himself on the former colleague who pit him away, Partin. And no professional would have had anything to do with an Oswald as executioner because he was not competent. If any plot cast Oswald in a patsy role then the plotters had to know his background and comings and goings in great detail.

ONI may have known that others entertained these theories but if ONI did, then I do not believe it entertained only these theories about conspirators. More likely suspects are the spooks here and foreign and elements of the domestic military. And whether or not more likely no serious investigation could have failed to consider the possibility of government involvement. Including if not especially the spookeries.

A question for you to consider, if Don is concerned about violation of his secrecy agreement, has he not already violated it in what he's told you?

Another is has he told you anything he could not have picked up from or improvised from the published literature?

I am not saying I do not trust or believe him and I have always believed that what he said happened did happen even if not even indicated in any disclosed records. I am suggesting that credible as what he said is, until he comes up with something new and reasonable and confirmable, be careful. And he appears not to have mentioned what any experienced man knew had to exist, any damage-assessment investigation when Oswald surfaced in Moscow. This would have to have included any classified information Oswald could have passed on and we know that the codes were changed immediately from the testimony of the officer under whom Oswald worked. There would also have to have been some assessment of Oswald connections and principals. Including ONI itself, not only the KGB.

and I do not recall that anything disclosed indicates that ONI had any interest in any info developed in the post-assassination investigations. There could have been legitimate explanations for this apparent disinterest but I think it is atypical. There also should have been spook interest in the Oswald letters to the Navy from Moscow. And at the least ONI should have been interested in anything that was published in ~~NY~~ then or at the time of the crime. Both.

I do look forward to anything else you learn. Thanks and best,

Harold

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May 10, 1988

Mr. Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold:

Your memory is unbelievable! I glad you remembered me; you taught me more in that one afternoon about how to view the assassination and the assassination investigation than I could ever learned on my own. Thank you for your thoughtful letter, I plan to share the letter with Don.

Don is very serious about the evidence that pointed to the Hunts. I will speak to him about the possibility that the Hunt evidence is a decoy. Any help that your contacts in Dallas could provide about the "accidental" death of the Hunt employee would be great. I believe that the time period they would want to inquire about would be between Dec 1, 1963 through March 31, 1964

The information in the ONI file on Oswald that was Top Secret was primarily related to the ONI surveillance information gathered on Oswald after his return from Russia.

One of my objectives is to verify the information that Don has told me; any information that you can provide me that can assist in establishing Don's credibility would be appreciated. I will present any questions that you may have that will assist us in verifying the fact that he was what he says he was. Rest assured that no other critic (other than Paul Hoch) is aware of or will be informed of my research with Don.

Regarding when Oswald came under ONI surveillance, I believe my notes indicated that ONI surveillance of Oswald began after his return from the Soviet Union and continued up until the assassination. Don knew that Gaudet was CIA and followed Oswald to Mexico City, practically stepping on his heels.

Perhaps you can assist me with a question I had on the how Oswald was identified through the cross reference by the Army of Hidel's name. According to Don ONI had (at a minimum) a loose surveillance on Oswald. It is possible that ONI knew about Hidel from mail intercepts, and if, so is it not possible that ONI knew about the ordering or delivery of the weapons through the mail but did nothing except pass the information on to the CIA? If the Army intelligence cross referenced Oswald by the Hidel alias, not as an associate of Oswald as the FBI reported, then MIG Col. Robert Jones may not have realized what he implied by identifying Hidel as an alias Oswald.

In regards to your point about the Mexico photos. I mentioned that the official account was that the cameras were not working and that on his weekend visit the camera operator was off duty, all Don could say was Bull Shit! The assumption at ONI was that there was someone that the CIA did not want to compromise, but at the time the subject was off limits between CIA and ONI regarding any discussions about the contents of the photos.

I can remember quite well your pessimistic opinion on ever uncovering for certainly who was responsible for Kennedy's assassination. I hesitate to raise the issue, but Don has suggested the general outline of a theory that to the best of my knowledge has never presented. I pass this information to you for your analysis. Don suggests that a possible cartel of right wing business/oil interest, a faction of Organized Labor (maybe Hoffa) and faction of Organized Crime secured the services of a single individual to organize and implement a professional effort to assassination the President. At the time Don was investigating the assassination for the ONI, from what he has suggested to me, I think this scenario was considered. I confess I don't know enough to make an informed opinion at this point. But I do think that over time Don will share with me additional information from the ONI post assassination investigation (that is still classified) that may shed some light on this stranger than fiction thesis.

I plan to meet again soon with Don. I think your letter will reassure Don about the amount of information that is known of the military intelligence and Oswald. I will document his comments about the issues you raised and keep you informed.

Thanks so much for your assistance and insights.

Sincerely,



Bob Benn