

2/8/71

Dear Mr. Popkin,

Relet 4: I do believe it would be wasteful to respond to Arcega. I have gotten useful info from some pretty far-out types, some seemingly without many credibility. There is nothing in the hogwash he sent you to indicate even slight possibility.

Jim Lesar told me of the Australian girl. Bud and I have both been too busy and the few recent occasions on which we have been together have been restricted to more immediate needs. However, the Kirsch thing is interesting, for it relates to what you may recall as one of my early interests, Oswald's probable connections. My own initial analysis on precisely this point remains unchanged. I do not believe the US could have learned on the USSR hard enough to compel them to permit Marina to leave. To accomplish this required one of two things: a quid pro quo or a Russian desire. I think it was the latter, that they either disliked or distrusted him and wanted to get rid of him, fearing he was some kind of minor agent or fearing the consequences of their seeming not to grant assylum to left-seeming dissidents. It was well known that getting a Russian wife out was as easy going to the moon. I think I went into this in WHITEWASH or OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. If you come across anything relevant, I'd welcome it for a book partly written and sufficiently, in not complete, researched, AGENT OSWALD.

On the girl on the bus, the one thing I think might be learned from such people is remote, the description of others on the bus and any Mexican type young male with whom Oswald may have seemed to have had any contact. After all this time, recall would be undependable. At the time, there was no reason for anyone to note anything, unless special effort were made to attract attention. Nothing seems less likely for LHO on that bus.

I have my own information, separate from Garrison's generalities, about such a man or men. I've carried the hints in Andrews' testimony far forward. If you ever hear of a Mexican reporter or writer in NO at that time, please let me know.

Contacting Kirsch will be beyond my capacity.

If your students are like the magnificent audience I had at your beautiful school 10/68, you ought enjoy life.

My work is going well, but I stay bogged down and involved in things that must be done and keep me from writing. Enclosed is a publisher's notice on my newest. It got what for Publisher's Weekly is a "rave" review in the 2/1 issue.

Best,

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DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

February 4, 1971

Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 14, which unfortunately only reached me a couple of days ago. In view of what you say I would gather it's pointless for me to write to V. Arcega. If you think anything would be gained by answering him please let me know.

I trust Bud Fensterwald has told you of two other people I've run into. One, a Mr. Kirsch who is a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, who was in Russia at the time Oswald was there and who had married a Russian woman. Mr. Kirsch told me that the description of his case in the Warren Commission is completely incorrect and that he had one hell of a time getting his wife out of Russia and needed the help of people like Mrs. Roosevelt. Kirsch is also a friend of President Johnson's so it might be worth somebody's while to talk with him. I wrote Bud last week that I've met one of the Australian girls who had been on the bus to Mexico City with Oswald. She works in San Diego now. As far as I could tell she knows nothing more than what she said at the time of the Warren Commission.

I hope your work is going well.

With best wishes,

Richard H. Popkin
Richard H. Popkin

RHP/dc