

Dear Dave, re the Giancana book and Matt Smith's 3/1/92

You may recall that early this winter Matt and his daughter were here working on his book the title of which I learned in a phone call from his today is "JFK: the Second Plot."

Matt is sending me copies of the serialization of the Giancana book, "Double Cross," serialized in the London Daily Express. Which he does not like but gets because he does like Calvin and Hobbes. Matt seemed to be interested in the mafia and money angle and Cuba, as handled in the book. It will soon be published in England.

He also places confidence in what that book says about Oswald, Tippit and Roscoe White working for the CIA. It fits nicely into what he has written. No matter that all else Ricky White said is not true, or that most of the Giancana book is from his own description ludicrous.

Matt is a very nice guy. He also has faith in what he calls patterns and his book, rather the second part, is based on the patterns he says he sees. The first part brings the reader up to date on the JFK assassination, the second deals with his CIA plot, the second one of the title.

He has the ms. ready for the publisher, publication planned for September. The one problem he sees is his insistence that the book requires the 100 pictures he says it needs. He agrees with me, the publisher will not readily agree.

His ms. is about 100,000 words. With 100 pictures, a large and costly book.

Central to him is Wayne January's confirmation to him after he left here that Oswald was at Red Bird airport about three days before the assassination and did want to rent a plane to be flown to Cuba. Maybe the Cuba part is not from January.

Matt pressed me repeatedly to write a foreword and was surprised and disappointed when I would not. He seemed both surprised and disappointed today when he asked me if I'd like to review the book and I again said no. He used the word "review" for a book seven months from publication so he may have had the ms. in mind.

He got started on the book when he came on an old newspaper clipping he had about the Red Bird airport. He says that the police went there after the assassination because of a report that a small plane, a Piper Cub, was being warmed up near a fence repeatedly.

The Red Bird Oswald is not the ~~newest~~ newest one. Popkin had that in his book.

Matt knew nothing about Donahue's "Mortal Error." He may have heard of it, I do not now recall, but he is not aware of any attention comparable to the play for the Giancana book.

The Post is the only paper to ask me about Donahue's. I've copied some of my file for any other inquiry. I skimmed the references to me. For example, in the book he says I am not a ballistics expert and got only trash from the FBI in the Spectro/INA suit. He never looked at that file or any other. His wife added a note to his letter saying when they returned, as they have not, she'd like to look at ~~the~~ ^{the} records! There is more but this is enough. Best

Harold