

Mr. Tony Marro or  
Mr. Les Payne  
Newsday  
Long Island, N.Y. 11747,

10/4/86

Dear either,

Today's Wx Post makes brief mention of your Danilooff story reporting that he delivered what he received from a possible KGB plant to "an Embassy official, Paul M. Stombaugh," not otherwise described and a fool from what he did. A Paul M. Stomnaugh has been of considerable interest to me because he was an FBI SA assigned to its lab by FBIHQ. He was directed ~~me~~ to make a study of some quintessential evidence, two slits in JFK's shirt collar said to have been caused by an exciting bullet whereas, in a photo the FBI suppressed, those slits are not the same length and do not coincide. That report has never been disclosed, was never conveyed to the Warren Commission, and is alleged not to exist by the FBI in one of my FOIA suits.

The USSR describes him as CIA, of which I have no knowledge. I do not know that this is not another Paul M. Stombaugh. But it is without question that a man with that name was assigned to our embassy and was expelled more than a year before the KGB charged Danilooff for this contact.

If the same man, it seems strange to me that a man well and publicly known as an FBI laboratory expert would get such an assignment, one in which his identity is officially disclosed to the USSR government and appears in the standard diplomatic lists. Whether or not one and the same, I believe it was certain to attract KGB interest in him and anything he did. It was asking for trouble. The KGB was certain to keep an eye on him and the likelihood of that identifying those with whom he had contact appears to be great.

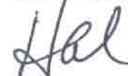
Including, of course, any reporters.

This kind of carelessness is not unknown among our spooks. It has led to their murder, as in Athens.

One of our guys picked up in the Penkovsky case when he was servicing a dead drop, by normal intelligence practises, would never have been assigned to the USSR because of its certain interest in him over his parents. His mother was a Russian, his father from the US, they met when we and a number of other countries invaded the USSR while the revolution was young, before the whites were defeated. They had two sons, both doctors, and I think this one is Alexis. Remarkably, his name is in Oswald's address book, supposedly for the supposedly pro-Soviet Oswald to look up virulently anti-Soviet mama Davison. I don't know how the USSR tumbled to Penkovsky, who lost his life over it, but if they did not have an eye on Dr. Davison, who serviced Penkovsky's drops, I'd be quite surprised. (Davison was Air Force and supposedly assigned to that embassy as a doctor.) Watching Davison could have led to Penkovsky.

If this Stombaugh is the FBI's guy, there is virtually no way in which he would not be automatically fingered by the blue book diplomatic list. He'd have a false earlier career there, none at all or the truth.

Best to you both,



Harold Weisberg

## Daniloff Contact Worried Officials

Post 10/4/86

The United States was anxious to avoid a Soviet trial of American correspondent Nicholas Daniloff partly out of concern that his contacts with a bogus Russian priest might have enabled Soviet authorities to portray him as a Central Intelligence Agency agent, U.S. officials said yesterday.

The officials, confirming the main details of a report in the Long Island newspaper Newsday, said Daniloff's actions in delivering documents from the alleged priest to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow early last year might have enabled the Soviets to build a seemingly credible espionage case against the U.S. News & World Report correspondent.

In addition, the officials said, the incident could have become a major embarrassment to the CIA because one of its officials in the embassy then contacted, the alleged priest, who now is believed to have been a KGB agent trying to entrap Daniloff.

The incident, involving the alleged priest, who called himself Father Roman, was mentioned in the Soviet indictment accusing Daniloff of espionage, and was alluded to in a

Sept. 8 article in Izvestia, the Soviet government paper. The article charged that an embassy official, Paul M. Stombaugh, had written to Father Roman confirming that documents intended for the CIA had been delivered to the embassy by Daniloff.

Stombaugh was expelled from the Soviet Union in June 1985 for alleged espionage activities.

U.S. officials said Daniloff's involvement, while apparently unwitting, could have provided a pretext for publicly tying him to the CIA if he had been brought to trial. In fact, some officials said, that might have been the reason Soviet authorities chose Daniloff when they decided to arrest an American correspondent to barter for the release of Gennadi Zakharov, a Russian arrested on spy charges in New York on Aug. 23. Daniloff was arrested in Moscow one week later.

Accounts of the incident from different officials varied slightly. In general, though, they agreed that the alleged priest sought out Daniloff and later sent to his apartment an envelope addressed to the U.S. Embassy. They added that Daniloff, uncertain about what to do with the package, delivered it to the embassy.

According to the officials, the package contained incriminating documents about military and scientific matters. The Newsday account said that one envelope was addressed to CIA Director William J. Casey.

The officials acknowledged that an embassy official, whom they would not identify, persuaded Daniloff to tell him how to contact Father Roman and subsequently telephoned the self-styled priest on an unsecured line and sent him a note confirming receipt of the package.

The Izvestia article, charging that Daniloff "was closely linked to U.S. special services," cited "a letter which CIA staff member Stombaugh—who was subsequently expelled from the Soviet Union—had personally handed to a Soviet citizen called Roman." The article added:

"My dear and esteemed friend, we read in this letter, 'I want to assure you that the letter, which you gave to the journalist on Jan. 24, has reached the person you addressed it to. We appreciate very much your work . . . .'"

"One has to add that the journalist was Nicholas Daniloff, who relayed the above-mentioned letter to the U.S. intelligence."