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December 19, 1983

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have received your letter of December 13, 1983. I appreciate your having advised me that the Post story based on the U.S. News article was extensively covered by the Washington t-v.

As for your request whether the Hoover file contained any records pertaining to political assassinations, the answer is no--at least not directly. I would not state definitively that there was no such information in this file--in view of the fact that over 10,000 pages were withheld in their entirety and other released documents contained significant deletions. To the specialist, there might be references in the released documents which would make sense or suggest some relationship to political assassinations. In this sense, my categorical denial has to be qualified.

I should advise you that I have initiated an ambitious FBI Papers editing project. This month the first three microfilm rolls are available from the publisher, Scholarly Resources, Inc., 104 Greenhill, Wilmington, Delaware 19805. The first roll contains documents pertaining to FBI filing and records procedures; the second and third rolls the FBI's Manual of Instructions for 1927, 1936, 1942, and 1978. In time, the Hoover O&C and other similar files will be available--I would project later in 1984.

I concur on your point about past AG oversight--my comment on NPR related to that provision of the Smith Guidelines rescinding the Levi Guidelines' requirement that the AG "determine in writing" that continued "domestic security" investigations were warranted. Since in the past AGs were reluctant to exercise their authority or were either misled or bypassed, the Levi Guidelines was a welcome corrective--now rescinded.

As ever,



Athan Theoharis

Dear Mr. Theoharis,

12/22/83

Thanks for your letter of the 19th and the information in it. I presume you have no objection to my informing others of the microfilm to be available. I will not have time now that I'm past 70 and not in perfect health to make any additional study of FBI filing, etc. I'm trying to end my litigation (without prejudice to others) so I can get back to writing.

There is no need to take time to acknowledge receipt of the clippings. I send them (and report what follows) to give you an idea of the attention for whatever value possible, as in requesting a fee waiver.

The enclosed clipping from today's Post was a yesterday's story on the Washington all-news station, that I just happened to hear while driving to therapy, but neither you nor your local paper were credited in that WTOP broadcast. However, by accident I heard WBBM Chicago about 4 a.m. yesterday and they credited both, with a decent account in both content and length.

Perhaps there is nothing in the Hoover file related to the assassination and its investigation, but as you go over the records I hope you can be alert to the names of the critics and the commission's members and staff. Hoover was pretty uptight about some of them and us.

As I presume you know the FBI had a similar relationship with the UnAmerican committee of the House.

Fine work and important. Hope you can keep it up!

With best wishes for a good holiday and new year.

Sincerely,