

Mark Zaid
47 South Lake Ave., # 4
Albany, NY 12203

9/29/92

Dear Mark,

In your 9/24 you say you have not decided whether you'll write debunking the coming Nagell book. If you can get an outlet that will reach any number of people, why not?

No need for you the in Form Carroll & Graf and risk getting them not to like you.

From what you ^{said} If Brown can't do it don't try. They've too much in the book not to be uneasy about any debunking.

Your hunch on the FBI's source on you seems reasonable. But b1 is not for any ~~criminal~~ criminal records. It is "national security."

And they make that cover almost anything.

You ask if you should write them a letter requesting an update and indicating that you intend to file. Omit the latter. It means nothing to them unless they want to stonewall more or get more cases filed so they can weep on the Congress over the burden.

I don't know if they have to tell you the agency to which they referred the records. Most likely CIA or State. I'd let a little time pass so it is not unreasonable for you to be wondering and then ask them the state and the agency to which they referred. You can then file against that agency. However, the reason it was referred need not have any connection with you. It might or there might be a different reason.

Don't trust Baden. He was outrageously bad on HSCA as well as grossly dishonest.

I like your toast to a healthy fall. Amen!

Best,

Harold

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September 24, 1992

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am in receipt of your letter of September 17, 1992.

Walt Brown informed C & G about the Nagell information but, of course, they are still going to go ahead and publish the book. I have not yet decided whether I will personally write a story debunking Nagell's credibility or if I will pass the information on to another researcher or reporter. Perhaps George Lardner wishes to do a story on this? In any event, I will send you anything I do write on the topic.

Thanks for the information pertaining to my intended book and tax records. My father had mentioned this to me and I have begun to compile a list of the expenses I have incurred due to my research. I have some leads on several of the sailors who were onboard the ship at that time and will attempt to track them down. The local NBC television station, of whose news director I am friends with (he is a JFK buff) told me I could look through their file footage on the news broadcasts related to the explosion on the USS IOWA.

I had requested my FBI file nearly two years ago just to see if there even was one in existence. I finally received a file consisting of 9 pages dated from June 1988 to January 1989. The last page was withheld entirely and most of the remaining eight pages were redacted under (b)(1) exemptions. The FBI investigated me for potential criminal activities and it is my assumption it had to do with my activities undertaken while working for the British government during the Spring of 1988. Most of my work related to South Africa and believe it or not, I think one of my college professors reported I might have been supplying information to the South African government.

I believe it was most likely a case of overexaggeration by this one very, very liberal professor. The fact I even spoke with members of the South

*copy
of
file*

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African government, regardless of whether that had been my official assignment, was enough to upset her. The files had nothing to do with JFK because at that point I had not even filed my first FOIA request.

Wrong

Obviously, the FBI determined there was nothing to the allegations and closed my file. I filed an appeal with the appropriate agency as indicated on the letter of denial. I spoke with Jim Lesar about it and utilized the "reasonable segregable" argument but to no avail; they denied everything. I also requested information from the Buffalo and New York City offices after receiving the initial packet of materials. Buffalo indicated they did have a file and referred my request back to Washington. New York stated they had nothing and I appealed that statement since several of the pages indicated airtels either originated in New York or were sent there. I believe that was denied as well.

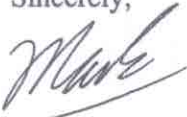
ask when State?

The DOJ indicated that they were going to refer my appeal to another agency to review the (b)(1) exemptions further, so I suppose I need to wait for that determination. However, do you think it wise to write a letter to them requesting an update and indicating that I intend to file a lawsuit if they do not comply with a release of more information?

This weekend I will be visiting Rochester for my college homecoming but I shall have the opportunity to meet with Ed Lopez, formerly a staff investigator with the HSCA. He was a law student under Blakey at Cornell Law School when the HSCA was convened. I also spoke with Michael Baden the other day to review some findings I have been researching regarding the JFK x-rays. Hopefully, we will be meeting within the next few weeks.

I trust all is well and the final days of summer proved enjoyable. Here is to a healthy Fall. Give my best to Lil. I look forward to hearing from you soon. By the way, the letter regarding Prouty that I sent to you last time was published in the latest The Third Decade. With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,



Mark S. Zaid