

12/20/71- Dear both, ^{DEC 24 1971} I hope your
silence means you are about to
return from the dark side of the
moon, not that you are unwell...
Today Show this a.m. had the
daughter of Captain Villa. She said
what I'd not seen in the papers, that
that her father had been working
regularly in N.O. and had planned
only three trips on the Johnny
Express, after which he would have
returned to his regular job in N.O.
I have learned that these right-
wing Cubans are a strange lot, that
the farout things they do are not
necessarily indicative of what
they seem to be. Yet these are such
strange circumstances, I hope you
will be observant in reading the
N.O. papers on this. There is some-
thing familiar about the name of
the ships' owners, the Babun
brothers, but that part of my files
is without index or carding, so all
I can say is that the name is fami-
liar. Please do not go to any
special trouble on this unless some-
thing of significance appears in the
papers. ...Castro's unusual viola-
tion of what I understand to be
international law seems to indicate
he is absolutely certain about the
activities of these ships and their
owners. It seems not to have been
a hot-pursuit capture...The daughter
gave a different account of the
ship's trip than the papers. She
said Haiti and included electronic
equipment in its cargo...Little new.
Started writing again yesterday
and completed the new last chapter
of the panel part of POST MORTEM.
...Spent some time with official
Egyptian Embassy Sat, night at
friend's Xmas party in DC. I found
his attitude on women more irrecon-
cilable than on international
relations, including Israel. I was
surprised at the anti-Soviet atti-
tude he didn't rouble to hide. He
claims Egypt has already paid for
the Aswam Dam, which I found sur-
prising. He thinks concubinage is a
good thing, esp. for women. His
wife, and exceptionally beautiful
woman by Hollywood standards, was
silent whenever I saw her and was
not with him once during the entire
night, a long one. Nor did he once s

seek her out...A British diplomat
introduced to Lil in terms of my
writing made a strange crack about
his experience as a hunter and how
easy a shot it was from that window.
He seems to think he did something
important by going to Dealey Plaza.
Later, after Lil told me, I invited
him to shoot my Mannlicher-Carcano.
He understood and said he had fired
the Japanese WWII rifle. I decided
to needle him a bit about England
allowing US govt to confiscate all
the Ray extradition records. In-
stead of getting defensive or even j
justifying, he said merely that he
was sure Chief Magistrate Milton,
a canny one, had kept copies! Best,
HW