

July 21, 1998

Professor James H. Fetzer
Department of Philosophy
University of Minnesota—Duluth
10 University Drive
Duluth, Minnesota 55812-2496

Dear Professor Fetzer:

Thank you for your recent letter and clipping on Oswald LeWinter. I was a little surprised by the conclusion that you drew from the article. Let me explain why.

You first reported to me, as best I recall, that a man named Oswald LeWinter had approached Dr. David Mantik and said that he, LeWinter, was the Director or Deputy Director of Counterespionage for the Central Intelligence Agency, that he was based in Southern California, and that he possessed information on the supposed alteration of the original Zapruder film.

The Review Board staff thereupon sought additional information from the CIA and FBI. One of the members of our staff examined files on Mr. LeWinter, which suggested that he had, on several occasions, represented to different people that he had held a wide variety of positions in law enforcement and U.S. intelligence. Thus it appeared that Mr. LeWinter, not like some other people, frequently chose to represent himself as holding positions that he did not actually hold. The files also suggested that he is frequently associated with various claims in connection with sensational or unusual news events. We found no evidence that he had ever been employed by CIA.

The article that you sent to us was, to my mind, consistent with what we had learned and not consistent with what Mr. LeWinter reportedly said to Dr. Mantik. In the article, Mr. LeWinter portrays himself not as a current high-level officer at CIA, but as a long-time renegade. Indeed, the article itself described Mr. LeWinter as "the most formidable confidence man in the world today." The description of Mr. LeWinter in the article was similar to other information documented in Mr. LeWinter's file, but not consistent with his claim to be a current high-level officer. The new

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suggestion that he may have secret information about the death of the Princess Diana is yet another example of his sensational assertions.

It is not the Review Board's job to make ultimate determinations about the factual record. Nevertheless, we have not yet found any substantive point in the article that you sent to us that would suggest our earlier assessment is in need of re-evaluation.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: David W. Mantik