

June 5, 1980

Guillermo Novo Sampol
U.S.P. Leavenworth
Leavenworth, Kansas
66048

*Recd. 6/9 -
not answered!!
JA.*

Dear Mr. Novo:

As you may have heard, I am under contract to Viking Press, Inc. to write a book about the Letelier case. Warner Brothers has purchased the movie rights to the book in advance. There are many signs that our work will be the established record of events. I am working very hard on the research and hope to finish the book by the end of this year or so.

My instinct and belief, from the experience I gained in Miami in 1974-75 interviewing Cuban exiles, is that you probably see your own life quite apart from the Letelier case. You have been involved in a larger war more than twenty years. I have talked with many people who also speak of fighting in that war, but I know very little about your particular history in it.

I would like to include your personal history and personal viewpoint in the book. Events have placed you in the middle of the Letelier case, unavoidably, but I view it as part of my duty to include the best and most accurate portrait of each of the major characters and their own perspective on the farflung events that have been crowded together under the heading of the Letelier case.

What I'm saying is that I'd like to talk with you for the book, if you are willing. You can control what you say and whether to talk, and if you do talk with me you must be the judge of how trustworthy I am. I can only say that I will be fair, to the best of my ability. I realize that this may be an empty statement to you, insce we don't know each other. For what it's worth to your evaluation of me, I enclose an article I wrote for the March, 1977 Esquire Magazine about an ill-fated trip to Venezuela. (I also wrote a much stodgier article for the New York Times much later.)

I have not contacted your attorney, but will do so if you wish. Otherwise, I will wait for some reply or affirmative instruction from you as to how I should proceed, how visitations work where you are, and so forth. My phone number is 202-4832296, after July 1, as I will be out of town on interviews during June. In the meantime, you may write me at the address below.

I hope you are agreeable. If not, please pardon the intrusion.

2818 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Sincerely,

Taylor Branch
Taylor Branch