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Readers' Views

'Must We Portray Our Foes As Stupid?'

TO THE EDITOR: May I comment on your editorial of February 1 on the Mott case.

Unless the editorial writer had access to secret files, the conclusions presented left something to be desired. The reasons given for Mr. Mott's murder (if it was) were to demonstrate Russian "toughness" and/or the Russians believe that he was a CIA agent. Must we always (like in "B" movies) portray

the opposition as being stupid and blundering? Russia's obvious embarrassment rather than "toughness" over the affair and the return of the body would indicate they found themselves in a situation they would rather have avoided.

Regarding the editorial writer's being "amazed" at the U. S. State Department for accepting the hoax, let's give the department credit for the reasons for their decision. Maybe they know something we don't know and they prefer to act thusly for the time being.

It is possible that Mr. Mott was murdered by some individual crackpot without its necessarily having been a grand conspiracy from the Kremlin, such as you imply.

Wasn't Oswald murdered while closely

guarded? The local police can be blamed for laxity but would you indict the whole U. S. government?

As to the writer's wondering about U. S. consular officials' walking the streets of Russia in fear, it probably would be no more dangerous than a Russian (or an American) strolling through Central Park! No nation has a corner on individual violence.

(MRS) MARIETTE DAVIS, 4809 Victoria Ave., Middletown.

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