

SmartZone Communications Center Collaboration Suite

jerrycatchall@comcast.net

AMHINT

Tuesday, June 02, 2009 10:03:05 AM

From: john.simkin@ntlworld.com

To: jerrycatchall@comcast.net

Gerry,

Malcolm Blunt has sent me a recently declassified report entitled "Separate Tracks: Agency Planning - Mafia Plotting" that had been written by Jack Pfeiffer, the CIA's in-house historian, in September 1983. Pfeiffer writes: "For purposes of this report, CIA's records have been searched for evidence of a direct relationship between the invasion planning and plans to assassinate Fidel Castro or his key associates."

During his research Pfeiffer interviewed Richard D. Drain, Chief of Operation WH/4. The tape of this interview still remains classified but some really interesting comments from Drain appear in the report. For example, Drain raises questions about the supposed CIA/Mafia plot to kill Castro: "Well, I promise you that until it came out in 1975, this allegation... that Shef Edwards and Mr. Maheu were working with the Mafia to assassinate Castro, concurrent with the Bay of Pigs operation, that is the first time I ever heard about it. Why Drain is so surprised about this is that as head of WH/4, he was in charge of the operation to kill Castro."

Pfeiffer quotes from a memo written by Drain that is dated 24 February 1961: "Asked Ed (Edward Lansdale), Dave P., Hinkle, Moore, and Jake (Jacob Esterline) why not proceed with Operation AMHINT to set up a program of assassinations." Dave P. is obviously David Atlee Phillips. When questioned about this memo, Drain cannot explain why Phillips did not tell him about the Mafia-CIA plot. He also pointed out that he worked closely with Richard Bissell over the plan to kill Castro. Once again he is shocked that Bissell, who apparently oversaw the Mafia plan, never told him about the operation.

A note in the report claims that "AMHINT was related to the work of the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE)." Pfeiffer then goes on to say that he found a document that included AMHINT request of 14 January 1961 for "Silenciadores". These were rifles with silencers and telescopic sights.

In another part of the interview Drain says: "We put out an awful lot of bullshit to the Cubans about the restoration of democracy and all that. Those Cubans that were working with us were not, I submit, working for the re-establishment of the Mafia as a controlling factor in Havana. I had a helluvalot rather, in contemplating the assassination of Castro, contemplated it the way that we were contemplating it - that is, can we get a Rip Robertson close to him."

Have you any thoughts on this?

John

From: jerrycatchall@comcast.net [mailto:jerrycatchall@comcast.net]

Sent: 14 May 2009 18:25

To: John Simkin

Subject: Re: Bohning

John.

Thanks for sharing your response to Bohning's screed. A good deal of it was an education for me.

I loved your response to his charge that you let your "red slip" show by supporting CND that Obama has now taken up and provided a sheen of respectability. Yes, it all rings like Hoover in the 1930s when he charged members of the Lincoln Brigade with communist sympathies and being adulators of Joe Stalin. Of course that changed after Pearl Harbor but Hoover stuck to his guns by implying that the Brigaders were premature in their anti-fascism and therefore his allegations were justified.

I read Bohning's "The Castro Obsession" when it first came out. I believe Jim Lesar recommended it. I cannot recall a thing about the book that stuck with me. In time it was

*John
Bohning
Miller
(Sells)
OTA
in charge of
Castro
Hanging
Lissa
Bohning*

3

Sells

one of the many books I contributed to the Hood library. My point here is I don't recall Bohning ever forewarned his readers that he was a confidential informant for the CIA. Was he associated with the Miami Herald, Hendrix and that crowd?

That's Jose Lanusa and Joannides and that monthly \$25,000 "skunk fund" that Joannides doled out to the brothers in the DRE. I have a rather impressive file on how Lanusa pushed the allegation of Oswald as a "Red" in the press, beginning the day of the JFK assassination. I have no doubt that this campaign was instrumental, in part, in getting LBJ to bear down on Hoover to "settle the dust of Dallas" as quickly as possible. It was a major accelerant in the "Rush to Judgment."

B's smear of you and your web site is right out of the contemporary school of hate politics here in USA headed up by the likes of Limbaugh, O'Reilly, Hannity, and Michael Savage, who your government had the good sense to declare persona non grata.

I think you have masterfully hung out Bohning's dirty linen for all to see.

There is stirring in that "Dark Wood" in the back of my mind that the CIA and like-minded elements in the clandestine community and their allies in the press and publication world are gearing up to try and shut down/intimidate prominent and credible sources identified with criticism of the official story of Dallas before the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination.

There are a few typos that you will catch after a final read. But I want to thank you for including me in this exchange. If there is any follow up I hope you will keep me informed.

Best

----- Original Message -----

From: "John Simkin" <john.simkin@ntlworld.com>

To: jerrycatchall@comcast.net

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 10:07:44 AM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern

Subject: Bohning

Jerry,

Here is the first draft of my reply to Don Bohning's article in the journal for the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. Please feel free to add your own comments about how it could be improved.

Bohning's original article can be found here:

<http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=14262>

John Simkin

From: jerrycatchall@comcast.net [mailto:jerrycatchall@comcast.net]

Sent: 06 May 2009 13:03

To: john.simkin@ntlworld.com

Subject: Weisberg archive

John,

FYI: The Weisberg archive at Hood College is finally on line. Try jfk.hood.edu

Is it possible to send on Louise and Dave address. Barbara wanted to write a proper letter and not go e-mail. She has been all clogged up with bronchitis since coming home and is just now beginning to feel better.

Best