

11/22/75

Dear Mr. Gault, The reverse side explains that while your enclosures interest me there is nothing I can now do about them except thank you.

I can't explain the return of your letters. They have renumbered the routes and we are now #12, but the old carrier and the new carrier have been fine, know us and would not make this kind of mistake. The people at the post office have asked me to ask you if you kept the old envelopes. This would enable them to trace it and prevent it from happening again with the same people.

Flyer on new book enclosed.

Thanks, Harold Weisberg

Route 12, Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, Md. 21701

Nov. 22, 1975

John Hurley, Foreman
Delivery & Collection Service
Frederick Post Office
Hayward Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Hurley:

I write this pursuant to our conversation earlier today when I called about the return to the sender of mail properly addressed to me.

As I told you, I just cannot imagine that either Mr. Fulmer or Mr. Hawkins did this, and, in fact, I am certain neither did, even though I am not familiar with the workings of your office.

As a matter of fact, I simply cannot imagine better service than these men and those who have relieved them could possibly render anyone. I don't think I can praise them highly enough. In fact, going back to the days when Warren High carried our mail, I really think that we have received wonderful service, especially considering the unusual problems sometimes involved because of the nature of the work I do and the fact that I am a book publisher.

I would appreciate it if in the records you keep on these men you would record not only my sincere appreciation but my unstinting praise for the services all have rendered. I appreciate it even more right now because I am limited in what I can do by phlebitis.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

cc: GFulmer
HLHawkins

"Kermit of Arabia"

By R. T. GAULT
Columnist

Hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations have finally come face to face with the issue of multinationals' collaboration with intelligence groups. In the past few years, the CIA and its former employees have been accused of being "in bed" with big business. Recent disclosures that the Northrop Aircraft Corporation used bribery and influence—peddling to feather its own nest in the Middle East put the spotlight on one of the CIA's legendary operatives, Kermit "Kim" Roosevelt.

Kermit Roosevelt, a grandson of Theodore Roosevelt and distant cousin of F.D.R., joined the WWII espionage organ, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), fresh out of Cal. Tech. Roosevelt was involved in collection of intelligence from the Middle East. When the war was over, and the OSS disbanded, various intelligence personnel were placed around Washington, as Allen Dulles and others lobbied for a permanent espionage agency. "Kim" worked for the State Department as a "consultant" for Middle Eastern and Communist Affairs. When the CIA was formed by the National Security Act of 1947, Roosevelt joined the Central Intelligence Team.

Roosevelt is best known for overthrowing the government of Iran, almost single-handedly, in 1953. The U.S. Government was unhappy about the advance of communism and turned the CIA loose on the socialist President of Iran, Mohammed Mossedegh.

In a classic ill—advised move, Mossedegh nationalized the local British oil monopoly, The Anglo—Iranian Oil Company, and put the Shah under house arrest. The CIA countered by backing an Iranian general, Zehedi, in a power play against the President.

There was no doubt that Zehedi was an anti—communist. He had been arrested and held hostage as a Nazi spy by the British in World War II in a bit of British commando daring—do. When CIA money and support failed, and Zehedi was arrested, Kermit Roosevelt entered Iran and set up a special network of agents to combat Mossedegh directly. When he was through, Roosevelt had bought several large—scale riots and a palace revolution. The Playboy Shah was brought out of house arrest and placed upon the throne.

As a result of this coup, the British lost their control of Iranian oil completely. The former Anglo—Iranian oil company was broken up. Forty percent of the holdings were given to Gulf, Standard of N. J. and Calif. and Mobil. Later, Royal Dutch Shell, French Petrol and nine other Americans got to fight over ten percent. The Shah's machine received a whopping 50% of the cut to use at its despotic discretion.

Kim Roosevelt was made assistant director of Middle East affairs with the CIA in 1955.

In the days of the Egyptian crisis of 1956, Mr. Roosevelt was involved in yet another even more mysterious plot. While President Eisenhower was in the hospital suffering from a heart attack, Roosevelt apparently turned Nasser (a personal friend) against a special envoy from Eisenhower. Acting for the CIA, Roosevelt successfully countered a direct official move from Washington.

Roosevelt "retired" from the CIA in 1958. His was too much experience to be wasted. He went to work for Gulf as a "security expert," and as a "consultant on government affairs." It is not known if his retirement was real, or if the oil job was an agency cover, but he was a Gulf Vice President before he left the firm in 1964.

Roosevelt set up a company in '64 to help U.S. firms overseas, made up of about six experienced "consultants," at least one of whom was also a former intelligence operative. One of "Kermit Roosevelt and Associates, Co.'s" first customers, according to the *Washington Post*, was the Northrop Aircraft Firm, and its subsidiary, Page Communications Engineers of Washington, D.C. Roosevelt also handled the Mid—East interests of the Raytheon Electronics, one of the electronics firms that grew up around M.I.T., as a contractor for the Pentagon.

Besides handling U.S. businesses interested in selling military aid overseas, Roosevelt's firm also handled (this is too much!) public relations in the U.S. for the government of Iran.

The Senate began to investigate bribery and other skullduggery in its subcommittee on Multinational Corporations. It was discovered that both Northrop and Lockheed Aircraft companies had been competing heavily for contracts in the Mid—East, and had been engaging in some advance robber—barronism to secure these contracts. Mr. Roosevelt's "consultant" status with Northrop was very useful.

In 1965, "Kim Roosevelt" wrote a memo to a Northrop vice president telling how well he was doing pushing the product. "My friends at the CIA are also keeping an eye on things," the memo was quoted in the *Post*. Ignoring the testy question of what things the CIA was watching, he goes on. "I have talked to a friend in my old place of employment who seems to be somehow involved in various discussions relating to the decision (as to what fighter to buy — Lockheed's or Northrop's)"

It's clear that Roosevelt was confident that the CIA's men in the Middle East were doing Northrop's bidding.

During the early '70s, the Saudi Arabian government approached the U.S. Govern-

ment for military aid, and help in instructing their tiny army in "counter-insurgency" tactics. Suffering from a bad image from just such actions in South East Asia, the State Department and the Defense Department passed the buck. The project was turned over to private enterprise and the CIA. The Northrop Corporation, Lockheed, Raytheon Electronics, the Bell Helicopter Co., and various oil companies began to hire and import private armies of "military contractors," "counterinsurgency experts" and ex-Special Forces veterans into Saudi Arabia. By January of 1975, the list had been enlarged to include a series of small military contractors of suspicious history, either known to be CIA covers, or made up of veterans of CIA contract teams. Some of these corporations were the Vinnell Corporation, a company which was an electronics firm but did little but hire mercenaries; the Bird Air Corp., a company long thought to be a CIA cover, the Military Armaments Corp, builder of the Ingram Sub-machine gun and the world's best silencers, and Phoenix Associates, a Denver outfit which can only be described as a referral service for hired guns. The story was that these men were going to Saudi Arabia to protect pipelines and to train the little Saudi army in modern military techniques. Certain intelligence watchers such as Fletcher Prouty, warned that the Mid-East was in danger of becoming our new Viet-Nam. The game was turning into "hard ball," as Nixon used to say.

The smooth flow of events in Saudi Arabian affairs has been disrupted since 1973, when the unofficial aid program began, by the Arab-Israeli war and the recent assassination of King Faisal by a "one lone relative." It is clear that U.S.-Arab relations have been greatly affected by the military contractors and manufacturers who have taken competition to its logical extent. The activities of ex-agents such as Kermit Roosevelt and his present brothers at the CIA have crossed the line into influence—peddling and multinational kingdom—making in the oil rich Mid-East.

It can be hoped that the Senate Sub-committee on Multinational Corporations will sort out the facts behind this hotbed of collaboration between the multinationals and the U.S. intelligence community. There are signs of the game turning very ugly. A French general, secretly involved in payoff deals for Northrop, was "accidentally" run down by a bus the day after his involvement was exposed. That sounds like "hard ball" to me.

PENN writers will meet tonight, July 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the **PENN** office. Additional assignments will be made after a talk by **PENN** advisor Lorrie Bright. Please attend.