

Notebook

Travels with Gus

According to subscriber Steve Jones, the literature about Gus Russo's new book is appearing in mailboxes already. From what we hear, Vincent Bugliosi's analytical whitewash, *Final Verdict*, has been pushed back because Jeremy Gunn's findings on the medical evidence were so disturbing to the official story. Russo's book is the one the media will be pushing apparently for the anniversary. We guarantee our readers that his publisher will not reveal the long road Russo and his book have traveled. We will. Russo was a music teacher in Baltimore whose hobby was the Kennedy assassination in the early nineties. He tried to get in on the research team for Stone's *JFK* and didn't quite make it. But Stone did hire him to work on the annotated screenplay released in book form. At that time he was a proponent of a government backed broad conspiracy. He showed up in Chicago in 1993 attacking the critics for not pushing the Mob-did-it line. He was then hired by PBS to work on their 1993 biography of Oswald, which none too subtly pushed the Oswald-did-it line. Now, scenting the trail of Seymour Hersh and their ilk, Russo, who worked with Hersh on his atrocity, is taking up his mentor's shield. The book is entitled *Live By the Sword*. Guess what? Oswald killed Kennedy because Kennedy was trying to kill Castro. That should bring a devilish grin to the face of Dick Helms and his cronies. A few years back, it was reported that Russo had lunch with Ted Shackley and Bill Colby. Shackley told Russo that it was Bobby Kennedy's idea to put Allen Dulles on the Warren Commission. Russo not only kept a straight face, he took that to heart. He's been trying to get a book published, in varying forms, for the last four years. Following in Hersh's bloody footprints, he finally found the key. Ted and Dick have made a convert. Unfortunately, John and Bobby can't by anybody lunch today.

The Revenge of Webb (Part 4)

Although we have been encouraged by well-placed sources to drop the CIA and drugs story, we don't feel we can. There has been a concerted effort by the mainstream press to suppress the second part of the CIA's Inspector General's report on that subject. Aside from a ten paragraph story in the *New York Times*, there has been virtually no news feature coverage of the stunning disclosures in Fred Hitz's startlingly honest look at the CIA and the Contras and their mad effort to destabilize Nicaragua in the eighties. The report was released on October 8th, and we won't be surprised if this is the first time you read about it. Hitz actually traces names and evidence all the way into Reagan's National Security Council and Oliver North. Also, Hitz discloses that the CIA knew they were dealing with drug dealers from the very start of their covert war against the Sandinistas in 1981. This is virtually admitted in a cable. In fact, the Agency placed an admitted drug money launderer in charge of their southern front effort in Costa Rica. Further, Hitz admits that the CIA knew that Ilopango Air Force base in El Salvador was an arms-for-drugs shipping point. Again, this is pretty much admitted in another cable. On source has told us that a damaging appendix was removed from the report. The best writing on the Hitz report is in Bob Parry's *The Consortium* of October 15, 1998. This can be read for free on the Internet at www.consortiumnews.com, but consider giving Parry a contribution for his work.

Tainting Evidence

A new book examines parts of the Justice Department's Inspector General's report on the conditions and quality of work at the FBI lab in several controversial cases in the nineties. It is called *Tainting Evidence*, and never was a book more aptly titled. The book examines some of the Bureau's lab work in high profile cases like the Oklahoma City bombing, the O. J. Simpson case, and Waco. Although it never pulls punches, it always stays within confines that are provable with documentation. The result is pretty devastating. People in the assassination research field already knew how poorly the Bureau had performed in the JFK and MLK cases. Now, more people will see that the performance was not confined to those murders. It was pretty much systematic.

Better Late than Never

In mid-October in Great Britain, former Chilean strongman Augusto Pinochet was detained by service on an extradition treaty from a Spanish magistrate. As we write, arguments are going on in court as to whether or not he can be legally extradited to Spain to face charges of murder and torture to Spanish citizens while they were in Chile. Pinochet is utilizing all sorts of legal defenses to avoid going to Spain, but as of October 27th, the Spanish judge has refined his brief to include instances of brutality which happened after Pinochet stepped down from office early this year. We also hear in a new report out of England that three other governments are preparing legal briefs to present in court to also extradite Pinochet: Switzerland, France, and Sweden. We may finally get some of the details of what really went on in Chile in 1973. Of course, as of this reporting the U.S. is staying neutral. If the whole story comes out, it would track back to the CIA and the man who allegedly ran that operation, the late David Phillips. No surprise, the *Los Angeles Times* (10/21/98) let William F. Buckley write a shameful defense brief as an editorial. What they did not say is that Buckley was a friend of Phillips for years and has been lobbying for Pinochet ever since the coup took place in 1973. In fact, there is evidence that one week before the assassination of Orlando Letelier, who was working for a restoration of democracy and overthrow of Pinochet, the murderers of Letelier met with Buckley's brother James in New York City. (*Death In Washington* p. 168) Talk about a biased source. And our 'liberal' press.

Every Once in Awhile Though

Occasionally, a bit of reality manages to streak through in the press. R. W. Apple is one of those McLaughlin Group type of pundits who makes a six figure salary for blowing hot air around a room and writing a weekly column or two that is good medicine for insomniacs. Apparently, his salary has not completely numbed all his sensibilities. In a *New York Times* syndicated column of September 22nd, he did an extended analysis of Clinton's grand jury video tape. At the end of the column, Apple notes the general revulsion that Monicagate has caused within the populace. Then, surprisingly, he actually talks like an insightful person when he adds that this revulsion is the latest in, "a trail of shattered political illusions...that began, one might say, 35 years ago when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Since then, almost every major political institution has lost the confidence of a late segment of the public, making government ever more difficult." Later he actually writes that the press has lost much of its credibility also. Has he been reading *Probe*? Somehow, our message got into the mainstream.