8/16/73

Dear Jim,

After reading Jack Anderson's Monday colum, I wrote Sturgis. My letter went out Monday night at the earliest. It was returned unopened and I believe inadequately marked in this morning's mail.

In fact, it lacks even return postmark."Return To Sender" only is stamped on the envelope. It is not a regular post-office stamp. Authority is not indicated.

This is quite the opposite of what happens with Ray's mail, where despite considerable effort officials persist in giving him mail he has specifically asked not reach him except through his counsel, mail than can be used against him and from those who are known to have special intentions that cannot but be hurtful to him.

When you get near Jack Anderson's office, which is close to Bud's, would you please hand him this, let him open read and copy it if he would like to and if he has no objection, forward the letter to Sturgis? I presume he has had access and can reach him. I'd like the envelope.

I have nothing in mind that can in any way hurt Sturgis or his Cuban associates. Nor have I the intention. I think it is possible that in the end what I may be able to put together might be of some value to them.

It doesn't really make much difference to me whether Sturgis sees me or not. However, I think he should be permitted to make his own decisions. If he has doubt, he has counsel he can consult. I have given him but one of a number, the fastest means of checking me out. I can referx him to at least two Bay of Pigs veterans, both captured, who trust me and who I have befriended, but they are in New Orleans.

It is, of course, necessary to protect prisoners from some of what appears to be intended with the Rays. At the same time, there should be some means for them to hear from strangers. Suppose someone had evidence that could help them?

Where mail is refused, the post office has a special stamp for it. Where it can't be delivered, the stamp has legends that give the reason. So, I assume the prison authorities did this on their own, without asking Sturgis. If he knows of Me from such as the Bringuiers, he might well have refused the letter. But then I should be told.

It may amuse you to know that his colleagues in the anti-Castro community have a special Cuban nickname for Carlos. The call him, behind his back, naturally, El Estupides. This does not mean stupid. It means The Stupidity. The only exception I have met are the Guitarts, father and son, PhD and lawyer, Havana University style. They also are walking stupidities, incredible people, raving paranoids. They are Odio's uncle and cousin whose home, by the way, was quite near Dave Ferries and on the same street.

Sincerely,