

Dear Jim,

10/27/76

While awaiting the coming of the horticulturalist who is going to have the waxy scale examined I've taken a little time to check my own files on today's Post's Korea and Venezuelan -based bombing of the Cuban plane.

By the way, I was given Dick Russell's story on Bosch in *New Times*. Very little if indeed any of it is new.

Not criticism. Drawing the ends together is useful.

However, you'll find some of this in a memo I did on "Zero." I forgot to date it. It is close to the date of the AP dispatch on which it is based, 4/18/74 or two and a half years ago.

I'm sorry it is not possible for me to talk to the IPS people about this or anything related to it now because of their irresponsible attachment to Lane.

(I have difficulty understanding Marc Raskin's clear attachment to Lane. He did a piece for the Yale Law Review on Lane's book toward the end of 1966. I spent much time guiding him around the numerous factual errors. But when the piece appeared it was on Lane's book only. Raskin and Barnet also know much about my work. In effort to turn them on years ago I showed them records they said frightened them.)

I'm not at all sure I can help them. But what Russell did not have in his story that in my work dates to about 1968 - part of what was edited out of Coup d'Etat - some of those characters have previous records of using CIA explosives and their CIA training in domestic bombings here in the U.S.

I mean the inference: that the FBI's investigation will have to get around all possibilities of U.S. involvement in the Peletier case. If this is something they'd like to follow up on I think I can help, with exactly what I tried without success to get blacks to do with the bombing of the car during the Rap Brown case hear Delair, *id.* However, I believe this would not be premature and if initiated too soon could be self-defeating.

When the papers were suggesting that the "Zero" assassinations were Castroite I said in this memo the opposite had to be the fact. If you read the parenthetical comment, graf 3, you'll note that I traced the plot to one of Hunt's novels. It does come right from that work the name of which I've forgotten. However, I did annotate it as I read it. It is one of which you of JDW sent me a xerox, I think.

It may mean nothing that the actuality of these assassinations has this political origin in the writing of their political hero. But is it not fascinating? Does it not also suggest the real harm from the wrong-headed accusations against Hunt by the Hebermaniacs?

My penultimate graf, with the usual typos, nonetheless is accurate in its forecast from what has come to light about Bosch and his amalgamations: "new revanchist groups (sic) of some rather small size that may be taking revenge." Read this as "new revanchist group of some of rather small size..."

It is no comfort to have seen clearly when the seeing was to no avail.

There is a fascinating twist to the leaking of this Korean story at this juncture. It is all in terms of Congressmen who were given contributions by our not new Park, where again we saw without anyone having any interest. I am confident that where the Koreans really need and received help was in the executive agencies. Not a word has come out about this. Only what helps Ford in his campaign, partly against the Congress.

From my own experience the story is wrong in what it says and quotes State on regarding diplomatic immunity. In my reporting days, about 1931 or 1932, I caused an international incident by reporting the actual arrest of the British ambassador for speeding through Newark, Del. Sta's protest included an emissary to my paper. They protested even accurate reporting. It was also funny. The speeding diplomatic car covered the chasing police chief and his motorcycle with mud.

What is sort of amusing in all of this is how we were led to Park. It says that there has not been a time when the government could not do something about him had it wanted to as well as why it did not want to. Am I correct in believing we found CIA links through the various fronts, not just what was so interesting about the Georgetown Club - and its part in Hunt's trash, especially the anti-Kennedy. Hastily,

"Zero" AP in SF Chron 4/18/74

The reporting I saw on the murder of Jose Elias de la Torriente made no reference to that of Arturo Rodriguez Vives or to "Zero." There were inferences the murder was of Gastrote origin. "ittle could be more improbable.

The inferences of this story do make sense, that those who consider themselves real patriot anti-Castroite are determined to abd ~~fix~~ the stealing of liberation funds, as they see it.

(This is not at all new. Remember Hunt's novel with that as its theme?)

What is not generally appreciated is the number of millionaires who got their millions, or enough of them, out of Cuba in time. There was a story once of about 30 of them in the Miami area alone.

Others grew wealthy off their compatriots.

And there were racketeers without end. Even Arcacha, on a relatively small scale, had to leave New Orleans over his crookedness. (So, he stole a car for his escape but with a Logan Act charge against him was never prosecuted.)

I guess there is also the possibility that this is a new revanchist groups of some rather small size that may be taking revenge on those of whalth who will not hel finance their activities.

With Cubans of this combination of stripes, almost anything is possible.

SEChronicle APR 18 1974



AP Wirephotos

JOSE TORRIENTE
He was fatally shot

Cuban Group Says It Killed Exile Leader

Miami

A Cuban refugee group calling itself Zero claimed responsibility yesterday for the assassination of anti-Castro exile leader Jose Elias de la Torriente.

A statement was sent to news media offices here denouncing Torriente, gunned down in his Coral Gables home last Friday, as a traitor to the Cuban liberation cause. The statement declared that he was one of many persons scheduled for execution.

It came only a few hours after Arturo Rodriguez Vives, 31, another prominent Cuban exile, was found shot to death in the living room of his home in New York City.

But the letter contained no reference to Rodriguez Vives.

New York police said they are looking into a possible link between Rodriguez Vives' death and an anti-Castro speech he made to 500 Cubans last Sunday in Union City, N.J.

Miami police declined comment on any possible connection between the two deaths, both of which came within days of the 13th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

The two-page typed note to the media threatened "those Cubans who, without being Marxist, block this process of liberating their homeland by working only to advance their own bastard ambitions."

It added "these miserable Cubans" deserve "an infinite zero engraved on their soon-to-be forgotten tombs."

It was accompanied by a paper cutout of a "0" and the typed words "Jose Elias de la Torriente. 1x100-1." A card containing a similar inscription was found at the murder scene.

Torriente, 69, was shot through his living room window as he and his wife watched television Friday night.

A large landholder and successful businessman before the Castro takeover, Torriente once served as Cuba's agriculture minister.

His rise to prominence in the Cuban exile community became enmeshed in controversy as a result of his well publicized plan to form an invasion army against Fidel Castro. Torriente was criticized by exile groups and leaders for apparently dropping the project and for having failed to properly account for thousands of dollars collected for it.

Associated Press