

2/19/89

Mr. Les Whitten
114 Eastmor Dr.
Silver Spring, Md. 20901

Dear Les,

Unless what I say interests you, don't bother to reply. But please keep it to yourself.

Yesterday I got from the CIA a copy of a memo of which only two copies were made, one for it and one for Bobby Kennedy - Sheffield Edwards' memo on his briefing of Bobby on 5/7/62. The subject matter was the CIA's mafia scheme to assassinate Castro.

The well-publicized official account that I'd never believed is that the plot was Kennedy's, Bobby's and/or Jack's. This is the basis of the kickback theory of the assassination with which, if you'll please excuse my bluntness, the column was suckered. That theory has gone wild since then and not only in Jack's recent TV show. In several books for which it is the foundation.

As it turns out, because Edwards et al did not dare lie to Bobby to his face about himself he attributed the scheme to Bissell and the date of its origin he gives as August 1960. Before JFK was elected.

He says that only six people knew about it and that all six were senior CIA officials. (I take this to mean that neither Eisenhower nor Nixon, who was Ike's action officer on the Cuban plots, according to E. Howard Hunt's biography, knew about it and that it had no authorization outside the CIA itself, which is the opposite of Hems' sworn testimony to the House committee.) He says there were no leaks.

CIA authorized a payment of \$150,000 to he or those who pulled it off. The memo never identifies the "project" in so many words but it is unmistakably identified by what is not excised relating to the bugger Balletti, who was caught in his bugging of San Martin's bed when trying to get his and Phyllis McGuire's sound effects for Sam Giancana.

First Kennedy knowledge of the "project" seems to have been when the FBI learned about Balletti's arrest. The memo to Bobby does not go into this but makes it apparent. Bobby ordered it killed and as I recall what I got some time ago and is misplaced, Edwards' memo to his own files, one way or another told the CIA never again. Which also is contrary to the popular mythology.

I've learned for the first time the identity of the DJ main file on this and have already appealed its withholding.

I think it is important to set history straight and remove their contrived immunities from those responsible. And that it is a good story. I'm casting about for the best use it might be able to get and thus write you... Hope the novels are going well. Best wishes,

Hal