

2/3/68

Dear Dick,

My response to your brother letter, received today. When I got a letter from you with a Windsor postmark I wrote letter that was returned. If you have not heard from Gary recently, try and get in touch. He has exciting Similes news. He phoned me Saturday. I'll mail this when your service is restored.

I think it might be a good idea if you were to try and talk straight to your brother. My experience with the new generation of CIA types is that they exude agency with patriotism and border on the irrational in what to them is dedication. However, because these people do have what they regard as sincere and honest motives, those who can stop long enough to think also understand that very much is involved. Also, most of the information I get from ~~others~~ is from the radical right. All that sewer stuff came from a Klansman who knows I am Jewish and thinks this is all a Jew-Communist conspiracy.

There are some things your brother might be able and willing to do that could be helpful and should confront him with no problems of conscience, for he should realize it is also for the establishment of both innocence and truth. The Cubans who accepted the govt offer of military careers after return by like prisoners had a classbook, with pictures and biographies. As much for the elimination of people suspected of minor involvements as anything else a copy would be invaluable to me. I cannot now get one.

I have just had draft COMB W/STMT, on all assassinations, and have uncorrected rough "A Citizen's Descent", which I regard as an overdue clearing of the air and perhaps also necessary if we are to preserve our integrity and not be shot down when one duck is. I have included your Beiberdorf stuff with credit in COMB. Do you know source of the Terexel picture you sent. Does Sprague know it?

My plan is to return to RMT COMBETA coming week. It was done last September. I have stuff to add.

Midwest associates here now. Expect real verb today.

Thanks and best regards, for whenever this is needed.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



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5 Aug 1968

Harold:

I have some time on my hands and thought I would use it to mention something that I did not previously consider worth discussing. I decided to pass this on when you mentioned that you were interested in suspicions of CIA cover. This does not concern "cover", but it certainly bears on the notion of a connection between me and the CIA. Even though, like me, you may consider this matter unimportant, no doubt you will find it interesting.

Although he has never admitted to me that it is so, I am quite certain that my older brother, Tony, was involved in some CIA Cuban activity-- probably not in the sense of a CO7 type operation, but I am sure that they used him and paid him.

My brother lived with his family in Cuba for about 7 years until Castro took over. He lingered in Cuba for some months after Castro took over; apparently he believed that some good would come of the change in government, and that his own livelihood would not be threatened.

He worked for Amadeo Barletta, first in Barletta's General Motors car sales, then as manager of Barletta's TV station and the newspaper El Mundo. I am not certain what sort of work Tony did, but it was some sort of managerial position. He was very close to the Barlettas.

Barletta fled Cuba some time before Tony, and Tony lingered even longer than he allowed his family to stay. He shipped them penniless back to the States, and stayed for a few months later when he himself came out-- also without money. Somehow he had access to diplomatic pouches, and was able to get some mail out that normally would not be allowed to pass.

When his family returned to the States without him, they lived in a rented house in Madison, N.J. Although they were far from affluent, they lacked none of the necessities of life, and complained only because they could not have a few luxuries (Tony was quite well off in Cuba).

When Tony finally returned to the States, he lived and worked in Trenton for a few months, separate from his family. He stayed at my father's house, where he did a curious thing which presently he says he does not remember doing. Although my father had a private phone in the house, Tony had another phone installed in the room that he used. My father has no knowledge that Tony ever received a call on that phone, and never heard Tony place a call. I immediately

concluded that he was involved in some sort of intelligence work for the government, and none of us ever questioned him about the phone or about the source of the money that was supporting him and his family. When I tell you of Tony's background, you will understand why I had no difficulty determining that he was helping the government.

Confirmation that Tony was CIA came from his wife. In a private conversation I remarked that Tony's curious behavior convinced me that he was CIA, and to this she replied something like: "Who do you think is paying our bills?"

Tony is a set-up ~~xxx~~ as a CIA man. During WWII he worked in the Counter Intelligence Corps, mostly interviewing prisoners, but occasionally also some covert assignments. He has background in several European languages, especially Spanish (Cuban accent) and Italian -- not as good with others, but he could converse in them fluently with proper practice: e.g. French, German.

After he came back from Cuba he began to learn Russian, but dropped it after a year or so.

What was most interesting to me, although I did not at the time connect it with CIA background, was the change in Tony's political outlook after his return from Cuba. He became a virulent anti-communist, a Castro hater, and extremely Right Wing; this was evident to me in a ~~xxx~~ ^{POLITICAL} single conversation that we had during the 1964 Presidential race. He said he was voting for Goldwater only because he was father right than Johnson; otherwise, even Goldwater was not satisfactory. We did not discuss his attitude toward Kennedy, for at that time I had no critical interest in the assassination.

I could go on and designate further details about this, but they would do no more than confirm what I already know, that Tony was CIA and far Right. He denies CIA connection and even poked fun at a few people whom he said were CIA while he was in Cuba. But I know he is lying.

I consider the situation more curious than upsetting, for he shows no special concern over my interest in the assassination, and is no more or less curious than anyone else that I talk to. I have not tried to pump him for information about CIA activities, and of course he has not volunteered anything. As far as I know, presently he has no knowledge or interest in anti-Castro activities; ~~xxxxix~~ it is possible that he knows ~~xxx~~ several anti-Castroites in the South, but I do not pursue such questions with him.

Tony and I are very close-- when I was a boy he was my idol, and although I have put aside idolatry, I have not lost any affection for him. ~~xxx~~ It does not upset me that he was CIA, nor would it if I learned that he is still doing work for the CIA. But I would of course be alarmed if I thought that he had any knowledge of the circumstances surrounding JFK's murder. I suppose that at the time ~~he~~ might have been delighted by it, considering his Right Wing attitude. But I am not sure whether he still feels that way, for we have not discussed politics since that time.

This situation may turn out to be awkward as Hell for me, but presently it causes me no concern. That may change, of course, if my lectures on the assassination become an annoyance.

My failure to mention this previously results partly from my lack of concern about Tony's CIA connections, and partly from my not wishing to seem an over-suspicious alarmist. No doubt it is something that might be significant in the future, although presently it is not.

Do not bother to reply to this, for I shall not be receiving any mail until the postal strike is over here in Canada.

Still,

Dick

Dick Bernabei