

2/19/89

Mr. Les Whitten
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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 Bisell 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 Man 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 ^{Bobby} 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,

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Sam Giancana, who was busy two-timing his wife with, among others, Phyllis McGuire, of the then popular McGuire sisters, He suspected she was two-timing him with Dan Martin of the Rowan and Martin show. So, he asked the CIA, through Maheu, to check it out for him. Maheu it appears got a Florida outfit to do this. The memo is so vague on this it does not even connect Bellotti with that outfit which it gives the name of the top guy in that outfit.

Edwards told Bobby that Bellotti was caught while installing the bug and no more on that. My recollection is that he had bugged the bed and did it so amateurishly that the bugging was detected. I guess he wanted sound effects. I may not be exactly precise in my recollection but I think a maid discovered it while making the bed and got the manager and he got the sheriff and that put the fat in the fire. One way or another when he was picked up Bellotti gave everybody to understand that if anything happened to him he'd sing real loud. So, nothing happened to him.

There is a Byzantine twist to this, naturally, with the FBI involved from the time Bellotti was apprehended. It got to know everything and generated a fairly large file that is entirely incomplete. Remember, that was in ~~1961~~ 1962.

Jack Anderson was impressed with the line Jim Garrison gave him almost exactly seven years later. He went to the FBI with it, saw DeLoach and at the end of his memo on *it* he mentions that he'd been called the night before by Marvin Watson, LBJ's honcho, and told by Watson that as a result of some information the FBI had given him, this CIA/mafia deal, believed that the assassination of JFK was the end product of a conspiracy and that the CIA was part of it. Not quite the government's official conclusion, is it?

The FBI sat on that stuff for about five years and ^{then} passed it on to LBJ when it wanted to divert attention from itself and toward the CIA, when Garrison was making noises about both of the agencies.

It is easy to lie about the dead when they are dead and can't contradict and it was relatively easier to lie about the Kennedys. From Helms down they have all lied about the CIA's mafia plot to assassinate Castro to make it appear that Bobby and JFK were responsible when Helms and the CIA knew other and better: it was their own scheme of five months before JFK became President and both Kennedys didn't know a blessed thing about that deal.

My recollection of the Edwards memo on his briefing of Bobby is that he did not go into all of this in the record with which he covered his own and the CIA's asses but he did say that Bobby seemed to be surprised or shocked and that one way or another Bobby said no more. The copy I had appears to be mislaid. I've asked the CIA, which did disclose it to me, to give me a duplicate.

From this record, the DJ's file copy, I've gotten the identification of that DJ file and have already appealed its withholding from me. It should hold more about that business. If I do not have a response by the middle of March I can go to court then. But I'm not up to much and Jim stays too busy. I think that if your people go for this if I've not gotten that file by the 20 days they might want to consider joining in the litigation so they would have first crack at what is ultimately disclosed. The memo I got is the fifth record in that DJ file so it is not large.

I haven't spoken to any about this because I want to be certain that it is not misused by the revisionsists. A BBC team is to be here Wednesday on something else and I may make a confidential inquiry. The Brits ought not have the hangups of our media.

If you phone me, remember that I have a primitive form of physical therapy every early morning but am usually home by 10 a.m.

Best to you all,

*Or, do you know anyone else
who might be interested?*

Harold