

3/24/73

Dear Bob and Carl,

If the new Watergate developments direct you into new or other channels or if either of you plans a book, part of Bittman's comment yesterday reminds me of a man I once knew well you might want to seek out. It should be possible by phone.

Hunt was part of the Guatemalan overthrow, still uncritically and falsely called that of a "Communist" government. (I then knew Latin American diplomats, including from the military and conservative, they knew the Guatemalans ~~by~~ and were uniform in saying they were not red but merely socially-conscious.) Exactly coinciding with this CIA operation the Dominican military attache, Samuel Fernando (Mando) Castillo went to Venezuela, whence part of the operation was mounted and directed. His knowing smiles when I raised the question with him confirmed the rumors I'd heard that he was part of it. All those I knew who knew him held this belief.

In suggesting a possible connection between Hunt and Mando (and if I remember correctly Dominican involvement became public knowledge) I am also suggesting that Hunt may have been part of the later U.S. Dominican intervention, an incredible fiasco based upon unalloyed CIA poppycock in which all Dominicans to the left of Trujillo were called Communists. That list was not a typical CIA job. It had the political perspective of Hunt.

He is one of those I call the dedicated wrong.

Last I heard of Mando, from a former girl friend, he had survived their troubles and was in Ciudad Trujillo. He was the son-in-law or the brother-in-law of the late dictator. Probably the Embassy, if not the phone company information service, could locate him.

The CIA might not want to say, but would you find it interesting if Hunt were the author of that Dominican variant of the Bay of Pigs? Or, a three-out-of-three guy before he made it four of a kind? What better credentials for a White House position of trust?

I find the direct quotes in today's Post fascinating. If the Post got a transcript of the session, how about returning some favors with a xerox? I'd like to go over it with care.

If you would care to conjecture in the wheels-within-wheels department, some of McCord gratuities might provide a beginning point. Assuming he had a way of knowing that there was not more than one interest involved, why did he have to go so far out of his way to exculpate the CIA? Or the one not identified in the Post I take to be Sloan?

I am aware that everyone is going for the notion that Liddy was der Fuehrer. I linger with the idea that he wasn't and that Hunt was El Caudillo. My facilities are quite limited, but I was able to pursue the leads on him that you did not a bit farthur. One of them persuades me it is possible if not probable that there remains an^{un}exposed scandal of even greater magnitude.

If you have the transcript and can provide a copy, thanks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg