

Marchetti: Call to Contact

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SPECTATOR: If you were, as an agent, in trouble somewhere in America...

MARCHETTI: I was never an agent. I was an officer.

SPECTATOR: Okay, if someone were an agent, and they were involved in something, and nobody believes they are an agent. He is arrested, and trying to communicate, let's say, and he is one of you guys. What is the procedure?

MARCHETTI: I'd kill him.

SPECTATOR: If I were an agent for the Agency, and I was involved in something involving the law domestically and the FBI, would I have a contact to call?

MARCHETTI: Yes.

SPECTATOR: A verification contact?

MARCHETTI: Yes, you would.

SPECTATOR: Would I be dead?

MARCHETTI: It would all depend on the situation. If you get into bad trouble, we're not going to verify you. No how, no way.

SPECTATOR: But there is a call mechanism set up.

MARCHETTI: Yes.

SPECTATOR: So it is conceivable that Lee Harvey Oswald was...

MARCHETTI: That's what he was doing. He was trying to call in and say, "Tell them I'm all right."

SPECTATOR: Was that his death warrant?

MARCHETTI: You betcha. Because this time he went over the dam, whether he knew it or not, or whether they set him up or not. It doesn't matter. He was over the dam. At this point it was executive action.*

SPECTATOR: Is the contact person's name ever the name of someone who is not necessarily an active agent but is just a contact person?

MARCHETTI: That's right.

SPECTATOR: Then that person would go up to the next level?

MARCHETTI: That's right, and it would be a "funny name" — a pseudonym. Like for example, you would have a number to call. If you were my agent, and you got yourself into a peck of trouble, you might try to contact me, but maybe you can't get through.

SPECTATOR: I would contact you by telephone, right?

MARCHETTI: Yes. But I might have covered my tracks real good so you can't contact me by telephone. In other words, I contact you, you don't contact me. But I give you a (unintelligible) number. So you call him, but I've already talked to him and said, "Don't touch him." You're screwed up.

SPECTATOR: But you would use, for that middle man, people who were not necessarily active agents or agency people, right?

MARCHETTI: That's right. Most likely they would be cut-outs.* You would have to call indirectly.

SPECTATOR: Could Oswald have had a name...

MARCHETTI: He was probably calling his cut-out. He was calling somebody who could put him in touch with his case officer. He couldn't go beyond that person. There's no way he could. He just had to depend on this person to say, "Okay, I'll deliver the message." Now, if the cut-out has already been alerted to cut him off and ignore him, then (unintelligible).

SPECTATOR: Would CIA agents have been in the Dallas jail as part of the investigation?

MARCHETTI: Well, I've been put in jails to interrogate prisoners.

SPECTATOR: So it's not inconceivable that a CIA agent of some type could have been there?

MARCHETTI: That's the name of the game. Get it whatever way you can.

*Executive action: a CIA code phrase for assassination.

*According to Anthony Summers, (Conspiracy, p. 314) "In the world of intelligence many operations are run through "cut-outs," buffer organizations or individuals whose sins can never formally be laid at the door of an agency or government."

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Victor Marchetti Disagrees

Victor Marchetti was for over 14 years an officer for the CIA, where he rose to the position of executive assistant to the Deputy Director. He is the co-author with John D. Marks of *The CIA And The Cult Of Intelligence*, the first book in U.S.

history to be subject to pre-publication censorship. Mr. Marchetti agreed to talk with the Spectator about the so-called "Raleigh Call" and the larger picture of possible American Intelligence involvement in the Kennedy assassination. The following is an excerpt from that interview.

SPECTATOR: Do you think the CIA was involved in any way with the assassination?

MARCHETTI: Yes, but not officially. My feeling, based on what I know, and I may be absolutely wrong, is that there's no way the Agency would get involved in this kind of mess. They may do a lot of things like overthrow governments, prop up dictatorships, and a lot of other things, but there are certain things beyond the pale. However, there are individuals within the Agency who are willing to go beyond. So there may have been an individual, or two or three, within the Agency who was involved. There are certain renegades in the Agency — or were, and probably still are — particularly

people who were involved in the Cuban affair and never forgave Kennedy. These people are perfectly capable of pretty goddam dirty tricks. E. Howard Hunt* is the kind of a guy, along with a lot of other people who were contract agents, who, in their anger and fury, were capable of doing something crazy like this, working along with other people. They're also smart enough to have messed it up so well that you could never figure out who was responsible for anything.

SPECTATOR: So you see individuals at work — not agencies.

MARCHETTI: That's right.

SPECTATOR: Individuals such as CIA contract agents David Ferrie and Clay Shaw?

MARCHETTI: Yes, I think they were probably involved in some way. I just don't know how. There were a lot of people who wanted to get rid of the president for one reason or another. And I think they all just coalesced somehow, some way — maybe by accident. I think that in

*Mr. Marchetti said he is currently facing a \$3.5 million law suit brought by E. Howard Hunt based on Marchetti's alleged statements that the House Assassinations Committee planned to name Hunt in its report, which it did not do. Mr. Marchetti claims his sources and information were good.

that group — and this is strictly personal opinion — there were some FBI and CIA renegades. They did their job, cleaned up afterwards, and got the hell out of there.

One of the most talked about portions of the House Assassinations Committee's investigation was testimony by Antonio Veciana, a Cuban refugee leader, that he had seen a man he identified as Lee Harvey Oswald in the presence of one "Maurice Bishop," who for 13 years represented himself to Veciana as his CIA advisor. In its attempts to discover "Bishop's" identity, the House Committee keyed on one man, later identified by Committee sources as former CIA Western Hemisphere Chief David Phillips. As reported in last week's Spectator, the committee was allegedly suspicious of both Veciana's and Phillips' denials that Phillips was "Bishop." Mr. Marchetti commented.

SPECTATOR: Is David Phillips "Maurice Bishop"?

MARCHETTI: No.

SPECTATOR: Do you know who

"Maurice Bishop" is?
MARCHETTI: Yes. It isn't Dave (Phillips).
SPECTATOR: Was "Maurice Bishop" connected with the assassination, to the best of your knowledge?
MARCHETTI: Look, when you're dealing in pseudonyms, forget it.
SPECTATOR: What do you mean, "forget it?"

MARCHETTI: I mean just forget it, because you're not going to be able to prove a thing. But no, he (Phillips) wasn't "Maurice Bishop."

SPECTATOR: But you did say you know who "Maurice Bishop" is.
MARCHETTI: Yes.
SPECTATOR: I'm sure if I asked you, you would not tell me his identity.

MARCHETTI: That's right.

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