

Dear Dah,

3/7/78

Pleasant surprise coming home from Washington and finding your letter of 3/5.

Not so pleasant that the second of what I presume by now is a massive crew of National Enquirer reporters is working on one of their more insane projects and ~~XXXX~~ is going to call me back soon. The project is that Flynt was shot because he was getting close to the JFK assassina!

Once I have that out of the way I have to unpack the attache case and get back to work. Time pressures get only heavier.

I told Scott about you and Nikki. He is enterprising and imaginative. He was here with the BBC crew Sunday night.

The violent-prone Cubans: I think you make a mistake to write about them and hope you won't after the present peace. They are all irrational and except as one can predict the crazy are unpredictable. We can't think as they think, see as they see and what makes them most dangerous, believe as they truly believe. They are zealots in a lost and utterly insane non-cause.

I know about the Babun brothers from earlier printed accounts of their involvements. Was it in connection with Bossch and his "Cuban Power?" And as you may recall, I know about Masferrer from having written about him. I did not know of the new info. Why not tell your local cops to file some FOIA requests? That will make the point that they should have been told.

The local police can tell you whether or not they gave dubs of the ~~ilteer/Somer-~~sett to the feds. I understand they said they did to both the FBI and the Secret Service. I suspect that you'll find the tape is not in FBIHQ and is in the Miami field office. Their standard pretense is that all the files are on HQ and they never mention the field offices. You'd have to duplicate the request of the local field office.

Scott just called me about something else, another and different BBC project. He did not get a set of Nikki's pix and BBC did not use those she took.

I have not had a chance to look for the Somerset stuff I got but it is no more than that he had been an informant, which you now have confirmed, plus they stopped having anything to do with him because so much was unreliable.

On your CIA request: have you thought of having the local ACLU consider whether they will rep you? And if I tell you how you might prevail in the fee-waiver request, if you get the records will you give me a set of copies to deposit with my records at Wisconsin? I think you'll have to switch your emphasis to prevail on that.

I heard about the CBS stuff on Castro and cocaine. In and of itself it is very thin. It lacks credibility. It also is opposed to the Castroite belief. And it just happens to be a retreading of another old one of the same nature that wasn't true, astro as a reshipper of heroin. So far as Crile is concerned, I recall nothing from the Post or Hapers stuff that I can't see the CIA wanting out at that time. (It wasn't in the Post magazine-it was in the Sunday Outlook or editorial section.) In my belief there is not even a reasonable basis for speculating in that direction. It is totally foreign to Castro's belief and known record.

Please excuse the haste. I've had two calls other than the one I expected and before the 10th winter storm, which is forecast, can strike us I'm taking Lil out to dinner for a change. His is her tax season! Our best to you all, plants and cats too!

March 5, 1978

Dear Harold,

Belatedly, I write. It seems that for the past few months I have ~~xxxx~~ had an acute case of letterphobia and have allowed many of my correspondences to lapse. From now on, I hope to be more in step.

With that aside, how are you both? Fine I hope, despite the nasty weather. For a while ~~xxxxxxx~~ even we were touched by some of the stuff you've been getting. Nothing, certainly, as bad, but rain, cold and generally blah ~~xxx~~ type days.

Both Nikki and I are well...she keeping busy with her photography and I with my writing. Oh, Scott Malone ~~asked~~ Nikki to take a picture of the boom-boom boom over at the Fountainbleau (which she did) for use on the BBC. I'll tell you, that kid's tv connections amaze me. Already he's done something on the assassination for CBC and now BBC. ~~xxxxx~~ Also, the New Times piece. He gets around.

Just the other day I finished a piece on terrorism here. A local historian-researcher friend of mine here is a buff on Rolando Masferrer (the ex Cuban 'Tiger' and Batista henchman) and has filed many FOI requests on him with various agencies. In the course of that, ~~the~~ CIA comes up with a Coast Guard document mentioning a planned invasion of Cuba circa 1974 which they characterized as the most credible attempt to ~~a~~ that date. According to the ~~XX~~ CG memo and a State Dept. reply on it, Masferrer and Teofilo Babun (local Cuban shipping magnate and owner of the Johnny Express) were going to be leading the thing. Perhaps, the local cops speculate, Castro retaliated by killing Masferrer a year later. Also, the possibility exists--more probably, they ~~f~~ say--that exiles ~~ix~~ did the hit. The date of the memo, May 13, 1974, a month after another death--Jose Torriente--suggests to the cops that he might have been the original leader of the plan, but was killed when he learned the feds had discovered the plot and decided to change or cancel his group's plans. Masferrer and Babun had been sub-leaders of Torriente's Cuban Liberation Front. Whatever, the most interesting thing about the story is that the local cops--the primary investigators--never knew of the planned invasion. They say it throws a whole new light on the Torriente and Masferrer killings and complain that the feds never clued them in. So much for law enforcement cooperation!

Just the other day I ~~a~~ finally heard from the FBI on my ~~a~~ year old FOI request on Somerset and Rilter. They called me ~~about~~ about a month ago to tell me that they were ready to reply and had found seven volumes (250 pages each) on Somerset's activities as an informant. For cost purposes, I decided

to limit my request to data on the years 1960 on. That, they say, comes to 462 pages or \$46.20. As I am very poor this month, I am trying to get my Miami Mag. editors to spring for it, and I think they will soon. Will let you know what I come up with.

Did you get anything on Milteer or Somerset that you can send me? If so, let me ~~know~~ know and if there are any copying costs I'll get them to you. (oh, I forgot to mention, the FBI spokesman said that the Bureau never received a copy of the tape and there fore couldn't furnish one to me. Comment?)

On another front, I am currently in Limbo with the CIA and my request to them. As I think I told you, I sent them a rather massive request for info on McLaney, Benton, Ed Arthur, James and Jerry Buchanan and a number of ~~xxxxxx~~ people. I applied for a fee waiver when they ~~ask~~ asked for a \$200 deposit and eventually was turned down--despite valid arguments, I feel. So now I am in the process of securing an attorney to take them to court on the matter. (By the way, Ed arthur's story is in the May issue of Soldier of Fortune which is on the stands now. The thing is hardly an award winner, but I believe the gist of what he is saying is true.)

Did you see the program on 60 Minutes about the 'Castro Connection?' It involved a Miami ~~xxxxxx~~ company, WFO, and a man named Guillermo Hernandez-Cartaya. Cartaya, a Brigade 2506 member, was alleged to have been involved with Castro on a lucrative cocaine smuggling operation. What do you think of it? I know that it is only in the earliest stages of developemtn and that no proof has been shown, but ~~it~~ does ~~it~~ jibe interestingly with some other speculation on Castro and his activities. Most notably the George Crile piece of May '76 in the Washington Post Magazine which went into the idea that Santos Trafficante might have been Castro's agent here in Miami. Are you familiar with that?

Well, as it's getting late--2:30am--I had better sign off and get some sleep. When you get a chance drop us a line to say hello.

Best Regards,



P.S.--~~xxxxxx~~ As my story on the Massferrer killing will not be coming out until March 25 I would appreciate it if you would keep the story to yourself for now. Thanks.