

The Connections Of I. Irving Davidson

Irving Davidson is currently viewed by Justice Department officials as Carlos Marcello's key Washington contact man, along with Wasserman. A reporter who sought an interview with Marcello early this year was told to arrange it thru Davidson, the first interview Marcello has given in years.

Davidson's rise to political prominence in D.C. was accomplished through his close association with James Hoffa from 1959 on. Davidson served as a key adviser to Hoffa - more or less as Hoffa's top lobbyist and political manipulator in D.C. By the early 1960's, Davidson was serving the same functions for Marcello as well.

Various involvements:

In the early 1960's, Davidson served as a registered lobbyist for the Nicaraguan (Somoza) government, and has maintained close links with Somoza to this day.

In the early 1960's, Davidson served as a registered lobbyist of the Haitian government as well.

In 1963, Davidson was a key target of the Fulbright Senate Committee investigation of foreign lobbyists, particularly the Trujillo lobbying abuses, which Davidson was also involved in. The Committee (and later Life magazine) found various lobbying connections between Davidson, the Teamsters, the Mafia (Licavoli) and Trujillo's agents.

In 1962-1963, Davidson was also involved in the Bobby Baker scandal, serving as the go-between in one of the documented payoffs to Baker from various oil interests.

In 1963, Davidson was revealed to have been the middle man on a cash payment from the Murchison oil family to Bobby Baker. Davidson was then also serving as a lobbyist for Clint Murchison, who he is still close to. Davidson also arranged a large pension loan from Hoffa to the Murchisons during this period.

(Note: De Mohrenschildt testified that he had worked for an oil company once, which was owned by the Murchisons, Three States Oil and Gas, see 9H202).

In 1960, Davidson paid for the hotel suite used by Jack Anderson and Drew Pearson at the Democratic convention. Anderson and Davidson are still very close, with Davidson being Anderson's key source for information on organized crime. Davidson was Anderson's source on the column from several months ago which claimed that the House Committee is returning to the Garrison investigation and had questioned Marcello.

In 1960, Davidson served as the go-between on at least two negotiations between Hoffa and the Nixon campaign, setting up two meetings between Nixon aide Oakley Hunter and Hoffa. Hoffa was seeking an end to prosecutions in return for campaign cash. Davidson handled the dealings.

Also in the early 1960's, Davidson was serving as a lobbyist and fundraiser for Israel, a cause in which he has been quite instrumental in (fundraising) over the years.

In his service as a Hoffa adviser, Davidson was acquainted with Allen Dorfman, Ed Partin, Frank Chavez, and Chuckie O'Brien.

At the 1960 Republican convention, Davidson personally introduced Hoffa to John Connally, who was then LBJ's campaign manager. Hoffa and Connally discussed the then burgeoning stop-JFK movement at the convention.

According to Ed Partin, Davidson also witnessed a secret meeting between Marcello and Hoffa in late 1960 during which a \$500,000 payment to the Nixon campaign was made. This is about the only allegation which has ever placed Hoffa and Marcello in a face to face meeting.

Davidson was heavily involved in the 1965-1967 efforts by Hoffa and Marcello to bribe Partin into changing his testimony against Hoffa, as well as efforts to subvert the continuing Hoffa prosecution. Davidson was involved in making false charges that RFK's aides had illegally tapped Hoffa, and was instrumental in peddling a story to the Washington Post alleging that the Judge in the Hoffa case was a sex pervert involved with numerous prostitutes.

KENNEDY

OUTSIDE CONTACT REPORT

DATE 11/2/78 TIME 1:00-

I. Identifying Information:

Name I. Irving Davidson Telephone _____
Address _____

Type of Contact: Telephone
 Person

II. Summary of Contact:

Mike Ewing, Ralph Salerno and I interviewed Davidson about his contacts in Haiti and his relationship to Carlos Marcello..
Davidson stated that his American business interests first took him to Haiti. He believes the first contact was made in 1962 or 1963 through Sam Ferber, a New York import-export dealer. Davidson said he registered during that period as an agent of the Haiti government. He said the business deals brought him into contact with President Duvalier of Haiti and that he "hit it off well" with Duvalier. Davidson said he cannot remember the details of his Haitian contacts, but that he has a Haitian file at his office. Davidson said Duvalier never had the money to make any arms sales. He said that he never made any arms deals, but that it was common traffic during that period.

III. Recommended Follow-up (if any):

Signature: James B. Adams

Davidson said that he may have known the name, but that he was not acquainted with De Mohrenschildt in either the United States or Haiti.

Davidson said that he maintained contact with Duvalier over the years, and that they sometimes spoke on the phone. He said, however, that he had no contact with Duvalier in 1963 after the assassination concerning any of the events in Dallas. He said Duvalier was pro-United States and that he was not aware of any anti-Kennedy feeling on the part of Duvalier.

Davidson said that he met Clemard Joseph Charles once in Duvalier's presence when Charles was attempting to explain to a Haitian woman what had become of a relative who was in prison. He said that was his only meeting with Charles and that they did not transact business together. He said he was not aware of newspaper stories that he travelled with Charles in the United States.

Davidson said he knew Clint Murchison of Texas and that Murchison owned a large flour mill in Haiti.

Davidson said he did not know the name Jacqueline Lancelot or her restaurant in Petionville in Haiti. He said he doesn't think he has ever been in Petionville.

Hoffa

Davidson said he would know if Hoffa were involved in arms deals because of the nature of his relationship to Hoffa. He never knew of any such deals by Hoffa. He said he first

met Hoffa in 1958 or 1959 at a convention in Washington, D.C. He met him through Jack Armand of Pittsburgh. He said he was very friendly with Hoffa but never on his payroll. They had contact several times a week. Davidson said he wanted to borrow money from the Teamsters in exchange for his public relations help. He said he was a Hoffa loyalist in the Hoffa-Fitzsimmons dispute. He said he still has contacts several times a week with Hoffa's family.

Davidson said he went to Murray Chotiner to work out a pardon for Hoffa. Davidson said he had been very close to Chotiner. He said he had helped Chotiner get legal business for his law practice. He said, however, that Chotiner interceded on Hoffa's behalf out of "fairness."

Davidson said he believes the Teamsters set him up in his legal problems. He said he is deposing Colson and Ehrlichman. He said they saw him as a threat because he was working to get Hoffa out. He said the Teamsters at first wanted to work to help Hoffa, but after Fitzsimmons decided he wanted to stay in control of the Teamsters, the Teamster effort to get Hoffa out of jail stopped.

Davidson said his indictment has been "wiped out;" he said the judge in the case sensed that something was wrong with the way the case was brought. Davidson said that at one time there was a rumor that he had been paid off to assist getting Hoffa out of jail.

Davidson said that former Attorney General John Mitchell told Davidson that when Mitchell signed the papers for Hoffa's release from prison, that there were no restrictions attached as condition for the release. Davidson said he believes that Charles Colson later added the restrictions to prevent Hoffa from assuming control of the Teamsters. Davidson said also that he believes Colson is still blackmailing Richard Nixon, but he doesn't know over which issue.

Davidson said he never heard Hoffa threaten the life of either John or Robert Kennedy.

Marcello

Davidson said he first met Carlos Marcello more than 20 years ago in New Orleans. Marcello wanted Loyola University to move its campus to his property; he would then donate 500 acres to the school in return. Davidson said he has never has business dealings with Marcello, but that he hopes to intercede to sell Churchill Farms, Marcello's property, to an embassy. Davidson said he does not believe that Marcello is involved in narcotics traffic.

Davidson said he does not know Charles Murret or Sam Saia from New Orleans. When asked about the name Emile Bruneaux, Davidson said he knows a Bruneaux who works in the New Orleans Police Commission.

Davidson was asked if he knew of an allegation by Bureau sources that Davidson had gone to the Bureau to get information about George De Mohrenschildt. Davidson denied the allegation and said that he first heard the name De Mohrenschildt a few months ago when Jeremiah O'Leary's article appeared about that allegation. Davidson said he never met with the Bureau men mentioned in the article. Davidson explained that he had gone to the Bureau to discuss information he had been given from a man named Davidov, who was working with Hugh Mac Donald on assassination theories. He said Davidov and Mac Donald approached him and said that De Mohrenschildt might have been involved in the assassination. He said he called Edward Cohen and Hoover's aide Tolson about the allegation. He also called O'Leary; O'Leary told Davidson he had gotten the information that Davidson approached the Bureau about De Mohrenschildt from FOIA materials.

Davidson offered the FBI memo on the meeting to us during the interview. He stated again that he never met with the agents mentioned in the article, but that they had characterized him in their memo as seeking information about De Mohrenschildt to increase their own importance in the eyes of the Bureau. Davidson said that Lyndon Johnson didn't mean enough to him that he would have interceded to protect Johnson's reputation as suggested by the memo and the article.

Davidson said he was not actually an FBI "informer"

but that he would pass information along when he got information which he thought would be of use to the government. Davidson described himself as a "bug on law enforcement."

Davidson said that he was not a friend of Trujillo's, but that he is a friend of Trujillo's daughter. He said the United States government wanted his help in getting Balanquer out.

Davidson said he heard stories that Nixon knew Norman Rothman and that Nixon had lost money gambling in the Caribbean.

Davidson said he knows G. Gordon Liddy and that he saw him at a party at Donald Santarelli's house when Liddy was released from jail.

Davidson said he met Robert Mardian during the 1968 campaign.

Davidson said he met Orlando Masferrer in the summer of 1963. He met him through a Dominican named Enrique Garcia. Davidson said he has been friendly with all of the anti-Castro groups here. He knew Masferrer as a big "fighter" in Miami. He said Garcia has a drinking problem.

Davidson said that during his contacts in Haiti, he never knew of any anti-Castro groups which were using Haiti as any type of planning base.

Davidson said that a man named Bonhomme had put out stories that Davidson was involved in arms deals.

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Recommended follow-up:

1. Interview FBI agents who wrote memo that has allegation that Davidson was feeling out Bureau for information about De Mohrenschildt
2. Talk to Edward Cohen about extent of Davidson's interest in De Mohrenschildt
3. Interview Clemard Joseph Charles for information about Davidson and De Mohrenschildt's activities in Haiti.