

1/24 '68

Dear Jim,

As I told Jim Alcock by phone today, Richard Davis phoned me late last night, that conversation ending about midnight our time and again about 3:30 a.m., when we spoke until close to 5. I have dubbed these tapes into one for you. As you will hear, it is with his approval, nay, reiterated encouragement.

If you listen to these, and with care, there are several possibly conspicuous things: His stories about my book are inconsistent. First he got ~~in~~ on the plane from Chicago, then he got a phone call several days earlier, possibly from Bringler (he did not deny it, made no comment, in fact), urging him to sue me. Bringler has the lofty imagination to think in terms of 10,000,000. Note also that Davis mentioned having spoken to his three lawyers. Also, he repeated that interviewing him might endanger your case (against Cubans). He also insisted the second time on talking to you personally, no one else, which may be interesting. In the first call his anxiety was to speak to me.

At several points and in several ways he alludes to a kind of closeness to the FBI. In one of these he says the FBI showed him a picture of Shaw. This is inconsistent with the official pose that there are no documents on Shaw, and was no investigation because there was no reason to investigate him. On another occasion he says he met Manuel Garcia Gonzalez and Julian Biznedo at a party with Shaw then he says it was not at a party. He also says he reported Shaw's alleged pro-Castro comment to the FBI and repeated he signed a statement the day after the party. He spells the word "signed" out twice. Then he says the FBI was to see him the day after the assassination. Why? Then he has an FBI friend who moved to Houston when he moved to Houston. The FBI has been to see him frequently. They wanted to know, about five months ago, or about the time we got interested in the "Minutemen", publicly, whether Oswald had any connection with the Minutemen, to his knowledge (how would he have known unless he a) had a close association with Oswald or b) had one with the Minutemen? He knew nothing of the Minutemen, if you believe him, until the New York raids, which are very recent. Not through his camp or any of those there ("head hunters").

However, what he says is so in conflict with the official story I do hope it winds up under oath. Either he will then be a perjurer or the federal people, particularly the attorney general who is so utterly opposed to interference in the legal matters of the States, will be quite embarrassed. And, I think Tom will confirm, there is no indication of any FBI report of an interview with him about any of these things, particularly any report of an interview with him November 23, 1963. There are things he says he told the FBI not in the camp report, but that is not unlikely, as there are things he told Gurvich (whose tape recorder didn't work just that time) that are not in his report. The "enough clues" on the location of his camp also are not in the report.

He says he met Oswald, and told the FBI about it. No report.

He insists my book turned him on (to his lawyers) and therefore, he made the decision you are okay and "I have decided that I have information that should be out." He may here have been referring only to his camp (and he keeps referring to it as "his"), but on the other hand, he also said, "I know every Cuban in your book and know him well" (He also knew Ferris well and Banister, and pretends

neither is important.)

"The thing that has always puzzled me is who is the man that was with Oswald". His description is close to that Douglas Jones gave me of the man, not Oswald, who picked up the literature, ~~particular~~ in what I asked him, height and weight (see my memo on this). He says he saw this man, and not his description of how the man seemed to be alert to the presence of a camera. Somewhere else I noted this observation, and someone in New Orleans told me Davis was there. He says the picture was in that day's States-Item, which, I think is unlikely, but the next morning's Times-Picayune or that day's States ^{Item} is not unlikely.

Of Garcia and Buzned, he knows how they fit in the picture.

He knows and would like to talk about what happened to the Cuban refugees in New Orleans from 1961 until well after the assassination.

He knows Arcacha, makes a futile effort to defend him and acknowledges he has forfeited his right to be considered decent, heard from Arcacha all about the raid and what was gotten, and if you will notice, who told Arcacha about it and who it belonged to.

He had an average of 27 men in his camp, and he insists no one knew about it. Which makes more of a coincidence that Oswald offered to train men in New Orleans, and that Davis knew about Oswald's visit to Bringuier within 8 hours. Why should anyone have suspected Oswald before the literature ploy. He indicates Quiroga told him.

The bit about his "head hunters" arresting the sheriff is wild!

Note I asked him nothing about the Catholic Welfare bit.

He knew that Ferrie said he was willing to fly over Cuba to bomb Castro, presumably the person, but that he doesn't believe Ferrie would do more than talk.

Inadvertently, I cut him off when he was talking about proof that Oswald had been in New York with the FPCC. Isn't it strange that he confesses the relationship I found obvious from the FBI language, with the New York police and, if you listen carefully, the company. When I questioned him about the policy change about which I told you last April, note that he repeated he was told it by agents, evaded, as I recall with some uncomfortableness, when I pinpointed the date, said finally that he was told by the "company" and then rapidly "corrected" himself.

I find it interesting that Shaw, the friend of fascists, would tell a man he had every reason to believe hated Castro that Castro was Jesus-like. I cannot believe that if this happened it was a reflection of Shaw's belief.

He pretends to know nothing about Peneque (I think I recall a change in his voice when I asked him questions) and little about Batista (yet he also told me he was to have been the MDC political man in the government in exile if the Bay of Pigs succeeded), the man whose camp he ran (and elsewhere he indicated that this really was not the MDC camp, that he had other backers). I find the plan to lose these men in the Guatemalan jungle an interesting way of preparing them to liberate Cuba. That makes sense only if they were to be dropped in an uninhabited, overgrown area of Cuba, which is not consistent with their joining the underground but is consistent with their entire independence, like for an assassination.

He has documents which I shall soon ask him for. I'll phone him tomorrow

if I can. This cannot go out until tomorrow night at the earliest and I'll then include anything that might develop. Assuming we are not snowed in again. It was snowing hard at dusk.

His first identification of Shaw was as Bertrand, which he then denied. This may, of course, mean nothing.

When I ran out of tape we were talking about the capability of Cubans for assassination, and his belief they have no such capability (rather unique in light of Latin history and well-authenticated passions). He told me that more violently angry than the Cubans over the Bay of Pigs were the "CIA Americans". Later I asked him if he considered them capable of the assassination and sufficiently motivated and he said "yes", adding they could keep their mouths closed where Latins couldn't. In this missed part he also made a comment on what whoever had phoned him had told him about me, that I must be well heeled because I stayed at the Fountainbleau, where he estimated the daily room charge would be about \$35.00 a day but he said that meant nothing because you paid for it and it cost you only about six. I said the room was \$13.00 and would he care to see the record and he dropped that. It is not possible to deduce from this that I was being carefully watched, but if that is not the case, then it would seem that there is still close liaison between the Cubans, only about three of whom I told where I was staying.

And he is the third who wants me to help him with a book. I guess I can open a Cuban literary agency.

He emphasizes his reluctance to go to New Orleans because of the adverse effect it could have on his partner and his business yet says that what I say of him in New Orleans would delight his partner. I think his reluctance may be closer related to the grand jury.

Also enclosed are a clipping from a Paul Scott column I think you should read carefully if it is unknown to you (Alcock was unaware of it), with a brief note upon which I can enlarge, most of a letter from Hal Verb, and a rough transcript of Kerry Thornley's interview in Tampa ten days ago, I am getting the tape from which it was prepared if you'd like it.

One of my sources tells me that the company is quite concerned about the content of Photographic Whitewash and the limited mention ~~in~~ of its contents I have sired in Washington. Singling this out, of all the things I've said, indicates to me that the operating level is very worried about what is said about the operating level. I have applied myself to them rather often and they have a standing order for my appearances, recorded.

Sincerely,