

MEMORANDUM

December 25, 1968

TO: HAROLD WEISBERG

FROM: STEVEN J. BURTON

SUBJECT: "James Hepburn" etc.

As requested, this memo will be a complete, chronological account of my knowledge of the "James Hepburn" incidents. I have tried to confine the account to my personal knowledge of actions rather than opinions unless the opinions are relevant to establishing the facts of the matter.

The first contact I had with the book THE PLOT by James Hepburn came in late March or early April, 1968. At that time, I met with JIM GARRISON, MAGGIE FIELD, SIMSIE FIELD, JIM LAWRENCE, and STEVE JAFFE at the FIELD residence. GARRISON had read the manuscript of THE PLOT on the airplane from New Orleans.

Garrison indicated at this time unbounded enthusiasm for the style and content of the book. He stated his opinion to be that the book was a collective effort because expertise was demonstrated in diverse areas (e.g. economics, weapons systems, ballistics, marksmanship, intelligence, etc.). Since, as a result of the NAGELL story, Russian Intelligence (KGB) had been contacted some months before, we all formed the tentative opinion that this was their report.

GARRISON decided to contact the publisher, Fiduciare Wanner, 18 Cours des Bastions, Geveve, Switzerland, for further information. JIM LAWRENCE xeroxed several copies of the manuscript for those of us who were present. We were left with instructions to keep the existence of the book highly secret.

Several weeks later, STEVE JAFFE told me that he had been contacted by Fiduciare Wanner. He showed me a telegram which stated, in paraphrase, "Desire to meet with your representative immediately to arrange documents exchange." About the second week of May, I drove JAFFE to the airport where he left for New York, then for Paris.

About four weeks later, an envelope arrived at KLU (JIM LAWRENCE) and was forwarded, as per instructions, to me. I opened the envelope only to find a smaller envelope, "to be opened by BILL TURNER only." I phoned TURNER and was advised to simply mail it to his home, which I did.

JAFFE returned from Europe around July 1. I met with him shortly thereafter and he told me that the book was the product of FRENCH INTELLIGENCE. He explicitly stated that he considered the trip a success

and gave me the definite impression that he returned with substantial evidence. He said that GARRISON had been impressed and had reimbursed him in full for the trip.

He did not at this time tell me any details of the evidence he supposedly brought back. He did say that he had been inside of the Elysee Palace and had met PHILIPPE (LNU), former head of French Intelligence in the United States.

The next recollection of information is of driving in a car with JAFFE. He told me informally that, according to the French, H.L. HUNT was the prime mover of the conspiracy. He said that HUNT told ROBERT SURREY to set up an executive council of five men to oversee operations. JAFFE named the five men but ROY COHN is the only name I recall. The other names were not familiar and I did not take notes (thinking that we would soon sit down and go over it in detail). I asked JAFFE if they had good evidence and had given it to him and he replied in the affirmative.

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Before much more could be said, we parted company. Before we could get together again, I left for Europe (July 16) for vacation. By phone, JAFFE gave me the address of Monsieur SOROQUERE, 34 Avenue Kleber, Paris, as a contact point for Monsieur LAMARRE, the man with whom he had dealt. He said that I should contact them for an update on publication of the book.

Toward the end of July, I went to SOROQUERE'S office. I was met by two young Frenchmen who told me to return at 6:30 p.m. At that time, I was ushered into a plush waiting room. Shortly, a man entered and began asking questions in a terse manner. I asked who he was and he said he was Monsieur LAMARRE. I said that I was from JOM GARRISON'S office and a friend of STEVE JAFFE'S. I was in Europe on vacation and was asked to check with them for an update on publication of the book. LAMARRE said that it was published in France and was selling well. No publishing company in the U.S. was interested but RAMPARTS was thinking of doing excerpts. He said that they were procrastinating and asked for BILL TURNER'S address, which I gave him. LAMARRE gave me two copies of the book and two newspaper articles (which I gave to MAGGIE FIELD). He then introduced me to MARCEL SOROQUERE and polite conversation followed for 15 minutes. A short memo was sent to GARRISON.

In Prague, Czechoslovakia, I met a German photographer from "Der Spiegel". In the course of conversation, we found that we agreed substantially on world affairs. I showed him the French edition and he recognized one of the persons given credit. He was PETER BOJNISH, a German publishing tycoon. The Photographer said that BOJNISH was of

page 3

right-wing persuasion and could easily work with the CIA.

When I returned to Los Angeles, I was not on speaking terms with JAFFE for purely personal reasons, so little else was learned until October, when MAGGIE FIELD returned from her trip to Europe.

MAGGIE told me that she had met with LAMARRE in Paris. She said that he impressed her as intelligent, but he said nothing to ease her apprehensions about the book. She said they were wine and dined in the finest restaurants of Paris, where LAMARRE was known and received almost royal treatment.

Around the first of November, JAFFE phoned me and said that LAMARRE had made a film. When I met him, he said that it was a memorial film but also contained the ZAPRUDER film. He asked me to contact the UCLA Film Commission to set up a showing for November 22, which I did.

At that time, the film failed to show up and the date was reset to November 25. The showing was again called off and NBC's "The Kennedy Years" was shown instead. The audience did not get too upset. No word was heard from LAMARRE for ten days, at which time he offered that he was extremely ill from poisoning.

Next word was on December 13 when RAY MARCUS invited me to a screening of the film, FAREWELL AMERICA, that afternoon (see memo).

Since then, JAFFE says that LAMARRE has returned to Paris having apparently abandoned any efforts to have the film widely shown.

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ADDENDUM to "Hepburn" memo Dec. 25, 1968

→ The following is to be considered hearsay, was informally learned, ← and cannot be vouched for accuracy:

A personal friend, who was in Paris while JAFFE was there and who was in close touch with JAFFE reports the following significant incidents:

- Jaffe phoned from Geneva to say that some men in a bar were trying to get him drunk and ask him questions. Jaffe thought it might be the CIA.

- Jaffe expressed doubts about Lamarre's credibility until Lamarre presented him with a gift addressed to "My friend". This touched Steve and at that point he opened his information to Lamarre and gained great respect for him.

- In Geneva, Jaffe was in Lamarre's hotel room when two Americans knocked at the door. They said they wanted to buy the rights to the book and were prepared to offer a great sum of money. Jaffe indicated that they could not possibly have known where they were unless they were tailing one or both of them. CIA? (Alternative theory: a set up by Lamarre to impress Steve.)

In addition, other friends in Los Angeles have told me that Jaffe now says he did not receive any substantial evidence while in Europe. LAMARRE evidently continuously promised to give it to him and never did.

JB