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With CBS News Correspondents

Mike Wallace, Morley Safer, Dan Rather and Harry Reasoner

"THE MINISTER OF COCAINE" - Produced by John Fielding

"SINS OF THE FATHERS..." - Produced by Joseph Wershba

"BORN TO BE KING"

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WALLACE: And that air force headquarters is headed by Colonel Ariel Coca?

MILLER: Colonel Coca, who gave us the affidavit.

WALLACE: In any case, the DEA undercover aircraft landed safely back in Miami and unloaded the biggest haul in the history of drug enforcement, so much cocaine that it had to be taken away by pickup truck. But the question remained: How could a civilian, Roberto Suarez, enlist the help of the Bolivian air force to try and retrieve a planeload of his own cocaine? We asked Colonel Arce Gomez whether his cousin, Roberto Suarez, is a drug dealer.

COLONEL ARCE GOMEZ (through interpreter): As minister of the interior, at this moment I cannot tell you whether he has anything to do with drugs or not. It's a confidential matter, and to discuss it would cut across the investigation now underway.

WALLACE: But police files from his own ministry show that Roberto Suarez was arrested in Bolivia in 1976 carrying pure cocaine. And in 1979, he was named by arrested Brazilian traffickers as their chief source of supply. Neither case against him has been pursued by the present Bolivian government.

Are Colonel Coca and General Echeverria in the DEA files, to your knowledge?

BENSINGER: Yes, they are.

WALLACE: Is Luis Arce Gomez himself in your DEA file down there?

BENSINGER: Yes, we're aware of Mr. Gomez— Mr. Arce Gomez.

WALLACE: Last Thursday, news came from Bolivia that President Garcia Meza had removed Arce Gomez as minister of the interior and Colonel Ariel Coca as education minister. Washington sources say the dismissals were aimed at improving Bolivia's image with the Reagan team, in the hope that U.S. economic and military aid to Bolivia, which had been cut off by President Carter, will be resumed by President Reagan. But these same Washington sources point out that the so-called "cocaine coup" which propelled Garcia Meza into office last July was financed by drug money, and that President Garcia Meza himself has been implicated in the drug trade.

(Announcements)

" 'SINS' OF THE FATHERS. . ."

MORLEY SAFER: This portrait is of a father and daughter. On August 25th, 1948, there was a report in the New York Herald Tribune stating that the father, Lieutenant John Rudder, was the first black man to hold a regular Marine Corps commission. It was an historic moment, but you will not find John Rudder's name in any history books. He gained no great reputation for having broken the color bar. But he did gain fame of another kind.

The young woman beside him is John Rudder's daughter, Miriam. And it is that questionable fame of her father—the so called "sins" of her father, as perceived by J. Edgar Hoover—that Miriam Rudder is paying for.

MIRIAM RUDDER: I feel I'm paying for it. I feel that if— if I should have a child, my children will pay for it. Their children will pay for it. I don't know where it's going to end.

SAFER: Miriam Rudder is 24, a native of Washington, D.C. Three years ago, she got a job here with Congress as a file clerk with the House Committee on Assassinations, looking into who killed President Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Committee chairman Louis Stokes had an agreement with the CIA and the FBI to get any records he wanted, as long as all committee employees got security clearances. Miriam Rudder was no problem. Her parents were.

MIRIAM RUDDER: My personal background is very clean. I wasn't concerned at all with my clearance, no.

SAFER: But you were concerned about your association with your parents?

MIRIAM RUDDER: Yes.

SAFER: Why?

MIRIAM RUDDER: Because they had been damaged for so long. That I saw what it did to them.

SAFER: So when you went to work for the committee, did you— did you say, look, there may be a problem with my clearance?

MIRIAM RUDDER: Yes, I—

SAFER: And they said?

MIRIAM RUDDER: When I talked to the chief of security, he said that it wouldn't matter; that I was an adult, that I lived alone, I was self-supporting, and that I was clean as a whistle, not to concern myself.

SAFER: But Miriam's mother warned her she'd be disappointed.

MIRIAM RUDDER: She went on and on about that they would never give me a clearance, and—

SAFER: And what did you say?

MIRIAM RUDDER: I said that this wasn't the 50's and it wasn't Dick Tracy and they didn't do these kind of things anymore and Hoover was dead and forget about it. And I was wrong. I was very wrong.

SAFER: As we said, the problem was her parents. For better than 20 years the FBI had employed platoons of people to compile anything and everything Miriam Rudder's parents did. It fills eight volumes—who they spoke to, what they said, what their mail said, what their telephone conversations were about. The FBI was convinced they were Communists, but the raw data also says the Communist Party, the CP, was suspicious of them.

The Rudders were activists for peace. They did attend protest rallies for civil rights, against loyalty oaths. Miriam's mother was white and Jewish; her father, black and Quaker.



Rudder was a black man a bit ahead of his time—a college graduate, was in combat as a Marine enlisted man in World War II, and after the war became a Marine Corps officer. Because of his Quaker convictions, he gave up his commission, became a school teacher, went to law school and drove a cab part time and raised five children.

In the early 50's, anyone who spoke up for civil rights and spoke against the Cold War and was black and had given up a Marine Corps commission was bound to attract the attention of the FBI.

It is alleged here that you once said you had no loyalty to this country.

JOHN RUDDER: That's a lie. This is my country. Four hundred years of Afro-American struggle, blood, makes that the most reprehensible lie in there. My primary loyalty is to the United States of America.

SAFER: Mr. Rudder, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

JOHN RUDDER: No, I've never been a member of the Communist Party. But to define the— to answer the question yes or no would certainly evade the central issue here, which is whether or not an American has a right to belong to any political party, whether it be Communist, Socialist, Democrat, Republican.

SAFER: Did the FBI ever ask you?

JOHN RUDDER: No. They never asked me whether or not I was ever a member. I signed a thousand non-Communist affidavits. There was never, never any effort to ascertain whether or not I was a member of any party. I happen to be a Democrat and have been a member of the Democratic Party for 30 years. But no one even asked that.

SAFER: Why would the FBI spend 30 years, heaven knows how many informers, informants, special agents, time, money, to track John Rudder?

JOHN RUDDER: Probably they were somewhat hurt and somewhat determined to make me become an informer. I've always felt that an informer, a stool pigeon, was the lowest type of human animal existing.

SAFER: Well, who asked you to do this?

JOHN RUDDER: Members of the FBI, and there were several other people whose name I will divulge if you want me to.

SAFER: Sure.

JOHN RUDDER: Bobby Kennedy was with a group of people who came to me once and asked me whether or not I'd be willing to serve. I think he was with the McCarthy committee then.

SAFER: When he was counsel to the McCarthy committee—

JOHN RUDDER: Yes.

SAFER: Robert F. Kennedy asked you—

JOHN RUDDER: Yes. Whether or not I would be willing to work with certain agencies in the role of an informer.

SAFER: Well, what did you tell the young Kennedy?

JOHN RUDDER: I— I reminded him and I said— I reminded all of them that there was a man named Judas who betrayed a man whom I have admired and devoted my entire life to, a man named Jesus Christ. That I would not betray anyone's confidence. It wouldn't matter whether or not they were activists or non-activists or Socialists or Democrat or workers. It was against the American tradition, of informing. I would not accept a position as an informer.

SAFER: John, do you think that here was the case of— of a black man, a Marine Corps officer, a well-educated, informed sort of person, would have been—excuse me—but a first-class house nigger—

JOHN RUDDER: Right.

SAFER: —if he'd only come on and join the team?

JOHN RUDDER: During slavery, it was— if you opposed slavery, you were a crazy nigger. J. Edgar Hoover was horrified that I had refused to become an informer. I have a document which suggests that in response to my refusal, he ordered my appearance before a grand jury. There were wiser heads in the department that suggested that still a man must be accused of a crime or must have committed a crime.

SAFER: One of the more suspicious things that— that you did was the— the Sunday school you sent your daughter to.

JOHN RUDDER: My wife is Jewish, so we felt that it was important for our children to grow up with an appreciation of Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism.

SAFER: Why would the FBI find a Jewish Sunday school suspicious?

JOHN RUDDER: They claimed that several of the officers were Communists, without any proof whatsoever. They claimed that several officers of the school were members of a— a subversive organization.

SAFER: When you were a kid growing up in your parents' home, how much Communist indoctrination did you get?

MIRIAM RUDDER: I didn't know what Communist indoctrination was. I was brought up in an educated home, in a home that stressed reading, that stressed the arts. And if that's Communist, then that's what I was brought up. We grew up in a political household because of the era. We grew up during the civil rights era. But our politics of our house was the politics of this country, of poor people and black people being denied human rights and civil rights. And that was going on here in our country, not in Russia, not in Czechoslovakia; it was here. So it was the American dream that we were brought up under, not a Communist household.

SAFER: Did you have a chance to say this to the FBI?

MIRIAM RUDDER: I never spoke with a— a— an agent from the FBI or any of the agencies.



SAFER: It is 1977 and the FBI is investigating Miriam for that congressional committee job. The last entry on her parents' record is 1967. The report on Miriam Rudder says the bureau spoke to 25 people and they all vouched for her loyalty—trustworthy, intelligent, honest and hard-working. But there was that—quote—"subversive"—unquote—Sunday school when she was ten years old. The CIA is also investigating and comes to a judgment: reasonable doubt on subject's loyalty because of her parents, to whom she is apt to be bound by ties of affection and obligation. And the CIA's recommendation is security disapproval. But the final decision on whether to keep her or let her go is up to the chairman of the House Committee on Assassinations, Congressman Louis Stokes of Cleveland.

What happened when you went into Congressman Stokes?

MIRIAM RUDDER: Congressman Stokes was very sympathetic to my problem. He was torn between being a congressman and trying to be a good guy, so there was a conflict of interest in that. He says it hurt him as much as it was hurting me.

REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS STOKES: I may have said that to her, because I did feel that it was not right for her not to be judged upon her own background and her own reputation, and that a judgment was being made with reference to that of her parents and other members of her family. And I felt that this was— this was not right or proper, and that this was a denial of her rights.

SAFER: Do you consider her a security risk?

REPRESENTATIVE STOKES: No, I don't. No. Based upon everything I know about Miriam Rudder, she would not have been, in my opinion, a security risk. But in this case, she was in a very peculiar situation. She had been hired with the understanding that she would have to get security clearance. And when she was unable to do so, I could not let the entire investigation be bogged down in some type of a conflict with the CIA, and when we were operating under a very limited time and a great deal of pressure from the Congress to get the investigation concluded.

SAFER: But isn't there something wrong here where someone like Louis Stokes, a great fighter for civil rights. Right?

REPRESENTATIVE STOKES: Yeah. That's right.

SAFER: Must have a dossier a mile long on him in the FBI. Correct?

REPRESENTATIVE STOKES: I'm sure that I have. (Laughs)

SAFER: And it's conceivable that if Louis Stokes were not a congressman but a man going to work for a congressional committee, probably could be conceivably denied the job as a security risk. Start counting up all the people you spoke to over the last 20 years.

REPRESENTATIVE STOKES: That's conceivable.

SAFER: In essence, it just wasn't worth fighting the CIA over a file clerk, so Miriam Rudder was fired. The sin of John Rudder—if it was a sin—had been visited upon his daughter.

JOHN RUDDER: Here was a child who went to a— a— a Sunday school for less than a year, and on that basis is considered an unacceptable risk, in spite of the fact that even the FBI suggests that she's a good, loyal, dedicated American. It is insanity.

MIRIAM RUDDER: I want my name completely cleared. I would like to see a formal apology from the CIA and from the President's office to my parents and to myself.

SAFER: But don't you think that the government does have an obligation to all of us to protect our secrets, the government's secrets?

MIRIAM RUDDER: I agree that our government has a serious job of protecting the country in the cases of real threat. If they are going to judge a person's involvement, a political involvement from 25, 30 years ago, then pass that speculation onto their children, they're chasing shadows. They're chasing people like me and chasing people like my parents. It's incredible.

SAFER: Miriam Rudder did get a job working for a D.C. councilman, but she has higher hopes, wants to become a lawyer and eventually work for the government, but feels that whatever career she chooses, she'll be crippled by that failed security clearance, by unproved allegations against her father, by—according to John Rudder—his refusal to become a stool pigeon.

John, supposing you had, as they say, kept your nose clean. You would have been a—probably a pretty rich fellow right now.

JOHN RUDDER: Yeah.

SAFER: In politics, in the law, in education, in government—somewhere.

JOHN RUDDER: Yes, I would have probably thought less of myself too. What does it matter to be a judge, as I wanted to be? What would it matter if at the end of that time of compromising my integrity, of compromising my tradition as an Afro-American, as— to compromise my sense of— of— of— I am somebody? What could I say to my children? I want them to be proud of me. And I'm sure if you have children, you want them to be proud of you. I could not look my children in the face and say here is a stool pigeon who sacrificed in order to get ahead.

SAFER: So you have no regrets?

JOHN RUDDER: I have no regrets. I love my country and I love the support that I've— I've received in spite of it. I'd do it all over again. But they scared me. They scared me.

(Announcements)

ANNOUNCER: 60 MINUTES, a CBS News weekly magazine, will continue.

(Announcements)