

Mr. Jack Terrell
International Center For Development Policy
731 Eighth St., SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

6/30/87

Dear Mr. Terrell,

When we spoke several months ago I referred to the crash of what I took to be a CIA plane in El Salvador under somewhat mysterious circumstances, made more so by the transparency of the several cover stories. I then could not remember the date and I had not kept the stories published by the Washington Post. In reading the paperback of Christopher Dickey's With the Contras I think I can give you the date in the event following up on the domestic end still interests you. I enclose pp. 264-5. They indicate the date is 10/19/84.

This plane had been specially outfitted by a Dupont company at a Blackbird, Delaware airport where federal money had been used for a long, paved runway allegedly so that it could be used by private planes bound for Philadelphia, a palpable falsehood, as you may recall I explained.

After we spoke a young man on the Center's staff was here to discuss your filing of Freedom of Information and Privacy acts requests, by the Center and by individuals. If this was done perhaps initial responses have been received. If I can be of any help with these, I'm willing. I've had considerable experience with the CIA's and FBI's responses, to spot their trickery and often can prove they have lied and deceived and misled in other ways. I can also prove that their stock affiliates have such records in many instances. With the FBI I may be able to identify files not searched for compliance.

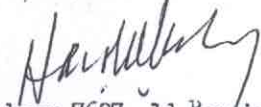
I do not recall whether I mentioned it to you or any of your people but when Meese appeared at the Reagan 11/25/86 press conference he uttered a big and I think very significant lie and he said that Director Webster concurred. He said that he had not ordered any FBI investigation of the White House covert operations because in the absence of any reason to suspect any violation of federal law that would have been improper. In fact the FBI has the right and obligation to conduct special, non-law enforcement investigations for the president and I doubt that any president ever had more need for one than an innocent Reagan. If innocent.

The massive FBI (so-called) investigation of the JFK assassination was just this kind of investigation. I enclose J. Edgar Hoover's testimony before the Warren Commission on this. In xeroxing the page number is omitted. It is Volume V, page 98, which I've marked. This is still an open FBI case after more than two decades and it is still classified as that kind of special presidential investigation.

I've not been able to interest anyone in this in the press or the Congress. One of the members to whom I sent this and other information, including on Robert K. Brown, is Senator Sarbanes. He got almost to the right point with Cooper and shied away from asking when it is obvious that with Meese's misrepresentation he'd have been without any explanation of the long delay in any investigation, the delay that made the coverup and shredding possible. This can assume even more importance if there is reason to believe that Meese had knowledge of the operations. From what I know of the FBI I'm certain it did and has cover-the-ass paper on file.

Robert Owen testified that he was sent to Colorado to confer with people including Brown. Brown was silent when he was propositioned to kill quite a few Americans, including the President. I have the FBI records. After that the Army promoted him from captain to major.

Good Luck!


Harold Weisberg 7627 1d Receiver Road.
Frederick, Md. 21701 ~301/473-8186

gether Salvadoran units to operate in the Gulf of Fonseca between Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. They worked out of the same kind of CIA-supplied "Piranha" speedboats used by the contras and it is conceivable, though unproved, that they were among the "unilaterally controlled Latino assets" that carried out some of the operations against Nicaragua. Their nominal mission was to interdict arms.

Many of the U.S. advisors in El Salvador were vulnerable. A grenade at the swimming pool bar of the Sheraton Hotel any Sunday would have taken out half a dozen. The machine-gunning of four Marines in a San Salvador café in June 1985 proved the point. But Schaufelberger, as it happened, was the only one targeted and killed by the Salvadoran guerrillas before 1985, and by that time the character of the war there was greatly changed.

On January 11, 1984, a U.S. Army helicopter was forced down by Sandinista ground fire after flying over Nicaraguan airspace. Official reports suggest it had strayed, but it may have been mistaken for one of several CIA flights and misguidedly by U.S. military air controllers at a base in Honduras called Carrot Top. It landed on the road along the border near Clifientes, near where La Negra and Torgerson and Cross had died. Under heavy fire, the pilot, Warrant Officer Jeffrey Schwab, was killed.

On September 1, 1984, Dana Parker and James Powell died in a helicopter crash in Nicaragua while accompanying a group of contras on a mission there. One description of the mission said they were unarmed and meant to resupply FDN troops. Another version had them on a combat mission against a Cuban-run military training facility, possibly for Salvadoran rebels. The CIA told Congress it "had no advance knowledge of the specific mission" by these anti-Communist soldiers of fortune in a private group called Civilian Military Assistance and that "no CIA officers were in contact with any member" of the group prior to "the ill-fated event." But it was noted in the press at the time that Powell was a former helicopter pilot in Vietnam. And Parker was a veteran of the Huntsville police department who served in the Alabama National Guard's elite Special Forces unit. Their profiles are similar to those of many contract men.

On October 19, 1984, two CIA officers and two contract employees, all Americans, were killed when their surveillance plane crashed over El Salvador. The Agency said they were monitoring arms shipments to the Salvadoran rebels from Nicaragua at night when they flew into a volcano. U.S. reconnaissance flights also helped deploy Salva-

doran troops against the rebels there. But the contras used the same Salvadoran air base for supply and attack missions both before and after the CIA crew was killed. The actual flight plan of the plane is unknown. The Agency would release none of the names of the dead.

COMMANDER ZERO

By the end of May 1984 every group Edén Pastora had ever worked with had a reason to kill him, and many had tried. They stalked him by day and by night, most often with bombs. But Pastora's luck held. In June 1983 a pair of assassins from Nicaragua made the mistake of parking their car across from the Costa Rican security ministry in San José. When they returned with a bomb prepared to drive to a visit with top members of Pastora's organization it appears that they had already armed the device and set its radio control. It also appears that the powerful police transmitters across the street set it off. They were blown all over the lot. One died.

A few months later an agent alleged to have been working for the Basque ETA was captured as he was casing Pastora's house in the San José suburbs.

The dirty warriors of the FDN, meanwhile, had long wanted to make Pastora a martyr for their cause. They suspected he represented a fifth column, a Sandinista plot to keep the insurgency divided. If so, he was a lot more valuable dead than alive. At the same time, Alfonso Robelo and the men who had joined with Pastora in ARDE (Alianza Revolucionaria Democrática) were furious about his repeated refusals to compromise with the FDN and to mollify the CIA.

On May 30, 1984, Pastora called a press conference at one of the dilapidated shacks on stilts in the jungle along the Rio San Juan, just inside Nicaraguan territory. Pastora was going to announce that he not only refused to unify with the FDN but that he was splitting with the members of ARDE who wanted to.

As ever with Edén, the conference was called on short notice and badly organized. His nephew Orion rang up a handful of reporters late at night on the twenty-ninth and few members of the international press corps heard about the conference in time to show up at the Irazú Hotel the next morning for the bus and boat trip that was supposed to take them north.

One who did show up was Susan Morgan, who was stringing for

will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?
Mr. Hoover. I do.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rankin will carry on the examination, Mr. Director.
Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Chief Justice, do you want to tell him briefly what our purpose is?

The CHAIRMAN. Oh, yes; it is our practice to make a brief statement before the testimony of each witness, and I will do it now.

Mr. Hoover will be asked to testify in regard to whether Lee H. Oswald was ever an agent directly or indirectly, or an informer or acting on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in any capacity at any time, and whether he knows of any credible evidence of any conspiracy, either domestic or foreign, involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

What he has to say about an article in the National Enquirer, Commission Exhibit No. 887, and concerning the failure to include the name and information concerning special agent Hosty in the initial report of the Oswald address book and any suggestions and recommendations he may have concerning improvements or changes in provisions for the protection of the President of the United States. Now, Mr. Rankin, you may proceed.

Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Hoover, will you state for the record your name and position?

Mr. Hoover. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

Mr. RANKIN. Where do you live, Mr. Hoover?

Mr. Hoover. I live at 4838 30th Place, Northwest, Washington, D.C.

Mr. RANKIN. And you have been Director of the Bureau for some 40 years according to the newspapers?

Mr. Hoover. That is correct, since 1924.

Mr. RANKIN. You have furnished us a considerable amount of information, acting for the Bureau in any capacity as informer or otherwise at any time, are those statements correct?

Mr. Hoover. They are correct. I can most emphatically say that at no time was I ever an employee of the Bureau in any capacity, either as an agent or as a special employee, or as an informant.

Mr. RANKIN. I call your particular attention to Exhibit 885, and suggest that you will find that that is your letter, together with your affidavit about his subject matter, and other matters that you furnished to us concerning Mr. Hoover. That is correct.

Mr. RANKIN. Do you wish to add anything?

Mr. Hoover. No; there is nothing that I desire to add to what appears in this letter and my affidavit which accompanied it to the Commission.

Mr. RANKIN. You have provided many things to us in assisting the Commission in connection with this investigation and I assume, at least in a general way, you are familiar with the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, is that correct?

Mr. Hoover. That is correct. When President Johnson returned to Washington to take up the investigation of the assassination because you are aware, there is no Federal jurisdiction for such an investigation. (It is not a Federal crime to kill or attack the President or the Vice President or any of the continuity of powers who would succeed to the Presidency.) However, the President has a right to request the Bureau to make special investigations, and in this instance he asked that this investigation be made. I identified assigned a special force (headed by the special agent in charge at the time, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover), and to get all details and facts available in the Attorney General's investigation, and then prepared a report which was submitted to the Attorney General for transmittal to the President. Mr. RANKIN. From your study of this entire matter of the assassination and in connection with it, do you know of any credible evidence that has ever led in your attention that there was a conspiracy either foreign or domestic?

Mr. Hoover. I know of no substantial evidence of any type that would support any contention of that character. I have read all of the requests that come to the Bureau from this Commission, and I have read the reports that have been submitted to me in connection with this investigation. In addition, I have read many of the reports that our agents have made and I have been unable to find any scintilla of evidence showing any foreign conspiracy or any domestic conspiracy that culminated in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Representative Form. May I ask this, Mr. Hoover. As I understand your testimony, it is based on the evidence that has been accumulated thus far? Representative Form. Is the Federal Bureau of Investigation continuing its investigation of all possible ramifications of this assassination?

Mr. Hoover. That is correct. We are receiving and we, I expect, will continue to receive for days or weeks to come, letters from individuals that normally would probably be in the category of what we would call crank letters in which various wild allegations are made or in which people have reported psychic vibrations. We are still running out letters of that character and in turn making a report to this Commission upon it, notwithstanding the fact that on the face of it the allegation is without any foundation. Individuals who could not have known any of the facts have made some very strange statements. There have been publications and books written, the contents of which could be absurd and without a scintilla of foundation of fact. I feel, from my experience in the Bureau, where we are in constant receipt over the years of these so-called crank letters, that such allegations will be going on possibly for some years to come.

I personally feel that any finding of the Commission will not be accepted by everybody, because there are bound to be some extremists who have very pronounced views, without any foundation for them, who will disagree violently with whatever findings the Commission makes. But I think it is essential that the FBI investigate the allegations that are reported in the future, so it can be certain that we had ignored them, or that the case is closed and forgotten.

Mr. Hoover. I would estimate, Congressman Ford, that there are at present time at least 50 or 60 men giving their entire time to various aspects of the investigation, because while Dallas is the office of origin, investigation is required in auxiliary offices such as Los Angeles or San Francisco, and even in some foreign countries like Mexico. We have representatives in Mexico City at the outset of the investigation, following the assassination, it was the desire of the President to have this report completed by the Bureau just as quickly as possible, and as thoroughly as possible, and I would say we had about 150 men at that time working on the report in the field, and at Washington, D.C. Now, all the reports that come in from the field are, of course, reviewed at Washington by the supervisor in charge of the case, and then in turn by the assistant director of the division, and then in turn by Mr. Belmont, who is the Reports in which there is a controversial issue or where statements have been made of the existence of some particular thing that we have never heard of before, I myself go over these to see that we haven't missed anything.

Mr. RANKIN. I have read the report, and I have read the letter that you mentioned in the National Enquirer had a terrific article in it. It is the content of a letter that had been written or a request that had been made by the Department of Justice to Chief Curry of the Dallas Police Department, to withhold arresting Rubinstein, or Rudy, and Oswald after the Oswald attempt on General Walker's life.

Mr. RANKIN. I had the agent in charge at Dallas interview Chief Curry and I have sent to the Commission a letter as to what Chief Curry had to say. He branded it as an entire lie—that he had never received any request of that kind. Our files searched to be certain was that...