

CABLE ADDRESS "NALPAK" J.K.

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NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

For Archives :
Kaplan/Vidal case

December 8, 1967

Dear Joel:

There is no harm in repeating an old adage, even though it is commonplace, so long as it is to the point. I mean: "BETTER LATE THAN NEVER."

Even with my own vivid imagination, I was never able to guess - in any meaningful way - how in hell you ever got into that miserable mess, with the degrading influences of the human vultures who have consistently surrounded you and abused your confidence for their own selfish aims.

It is equally inconceivable to me that you seemed bitter against me from the moment you fell into that horrible trap which landed you in prison. From the outset, despite the fact that you resigned from the molasses company, I did my best to befriend you. I pleaded with you to let me know how I could be helpful; and it was equally impossible to understand why you never responded to any of my efforts to stand by you once you got in trouble.

All of the foregoing is now a matter of the past. Of course, it is too bad that so much time was lost and so much filthy garbage was contained in the waters that flowed under those dark bridges. The hopeful part of it all is that you now realize that you have been surrounded and abused by opportunists and it is well that you understand they are still burdening you and me with their empty promises.

Henry and I want to do everything within our power. We want to try to exhaust any possible extraordinary resources to bring you out.

You must realize that this can only be done if
Henry and I are convinced that you are absolutely innocent.
We want to be able to sincerely present your case as one

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of a vicious encirclement that trapped you in order to bleed you and the family by presuming to be helpers whereas in reality what they did, besides draining funds, was to create harmful rather than helpful circumstantial evidence concerning you.

I am sending you this letter via your friend and former legal aid who we are sure can be trusted, Mr. Victor Velasquez. He knows the whole background which has created your present problem and he wants to be helpful. Indeed, he may be helpful but only if he and I are strengthened by your understanding, steadfast faith and willingness to adhere to a plan which has for its base total exclusion of your real enemies who have pretended to be your friends. The best hope to gain your freedom is for you to refuse to see any of them. IS THIS PRACTICAL AND POSSIBLE IN YOUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES? Give me your answer to this question in your own handwriting, privately and only via Mr. Victor Velasquez. Please ask him - as I shall myself - not to show your reply to anyone and to treat it professionally among us three, which will of course include Henry.

I am also disturbed by the persistent attempts on the part of Irma Vasquez to reach me by telephone, apparently only to ask for money that she said you needed. Now, why - on top of the steady funds that you receive and which you surely hand out to her and others - do you need funds? WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING HER INTO YOUR LIFE? To whom do you feel she gave that \$50,000 for which she made a special trip to New York, to obtain it from Ezra, and which Ezra urged me to give her? How, Joel, could anything be closer to open betrayal of your confidence, when the motive could only be to extract funds? To satisfy her persistence for more funds, Ezra recently sent her another \$500. She is now calling again for \$8,000 of fresh money. Why and for whom? I am sure there is no basis for it except some more of the same elements.

What do you think is behind this Mrs. Pearl Gonzalez, or Pearl Fishbein, the sweet young thing from Brooklyn who is now domiciled in Mexico and has been up here for several days,

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persistently trying to see me personally? What can she want of me other than blue chips? Write me what you know of her background and your honest feeling of her purpose. She claims to be a friend of your mother and yourself and of all of us. What is this persistent nonsense of CIA talk that was first told to your mother --- and she was gullible enough to believe some of this? Who tried to bring pressure on you to drag in this type of foolishness?

Pearl Gonzalez repeated in a long session she had with Sam Berger that someone is paying to keep you in jail. Now, who in hell would be interested in paying to keep you in jail? To whom? To the Treasury of the Mexican Government? To the police? To the people in charge of the prison? Who is responsible for this malicious and harmful talk?

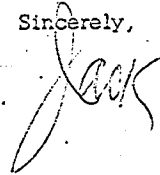
I am asking you these pointed questions, Joel, because you are the only person who can give the answers with conviction and understanding. Once they are clarified, Henry and I can set out to try to do the job that you envision and that we would love to accomplish in your behalf.

Meanwhile, have it clear in your mind that the money you now receive steadily is much more than ample to cover the reasonable requirements of Irma Vasquez and all the others who provide you with petty services and minor requirements. Also bear in mind, Joel, that giving money to bloodsuckers can only strengthen the chains that imprison you. The way to rid yourself of those chains is by first ridding yourself of all of these former associates - every single one of them, except Victor Velasquez.

For yourself, personally, you can have anything I am saving for you; in fact, anything I am able to give or do.

Be calm and keep fit.

Sincerely,



JMK:c:d