

Confidential

ZODIAC

News Service 950 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103 (415) 956-3555

July 7, 1975

Dear Hal:

I've enclosed a copy of a "Mailgram" which Popkin recently sent to his New York publisher.

The ~~more~~ contents of this mailgram are, to say the least, utterly bizarre and bordering on the fantastic. I've obtain this on the condition that I release only small portions with Popkin's prior permission (I have not used even Castillo's name yet) so I'd appreciate it if you'd keep this to your own private use.

Please read through this; I'll call you sometime this week.

Sincerely,



Jon

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2-004482B182-001 07/01/75

SUSPECTED DUPLICATE: 2-054735E1810287CS TDRN LA JOLLA CA 06-30 0955P EST

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ZIP 92037

Western Union Mailgram



RICHARD H POPKIN
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LA JOLLA CA 92037

THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

7144520809 MGM TDRN LA JOLLA CA 1200 06-30 0955P EST
ZIP
JASON EPSTFIN
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THE PROGRAMMED ASSASSIN: A SUMMARY

IN 1967, AROUND THE SAME TIME THE CLAY SHAW INVESTIGATION WAS HAPPENING IN NEW ORLEANS, A PUERTO RICAN-AMERICAN NAMED LUIS CASTILLO WAS ARRESTED IN THE PHILLIPINES FOR ALLEDGEDLEY PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE THAT COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT MARCOS. CASTILLO WAS LISTED AS AN ILLEGAL ALIEN, AND AT THE TIME NO CONNECTION WAS MADE TO US INTELLIGENCE. BUT TO TRYTO GET TO THE BOTIOM OF THINGS, DURING ONE OF THE EARLY INTERROGATIONS CASTILLO WAS ADMINISTERED "TRUTH SERUM"-AND AFTER A SHORT TIME, AN AMAZING THING HAPPENED. HE WENT INTO A KIND OF DEEP TRANCE, AND STARTED REMEMBERING HIS "PARTICIPATION" IN ANOTHER ASSASSINATION YEARS EARLIER. LUIS CASTILLO CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE HIT MEN ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

ONE OF THE INTERROGATORS, A HIGH-RANKING INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, THEN CALLED IN A HYPNOTIST. FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, CASTILLO UNDERWENT A SERIES OF HYPNOTIC SESSIONS, AND SLOWLY HIS TRAGIC STORY WAS UNRAVELLED. TAPES WERE MADE OF EACH SESSION AND TRANSCRIBED. I'VE READ THE ACTUAL TRANSCRIPTS, AND ALL OF THE SUMMARIES OF THE SESSION FROM APRIL 6 THROUGH JUNE 25, 1967. CASTILLO'S STORY WENT LIKE THIS: HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE PILOTS FOR THE CIA AT THE BAY OF PIGS. HIS PLANE HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN, THE CIA HAD RESCUED HIM, AND AFTERWARDS IN THE HOSPITAL A STRANGE AND TERRIBLE TRAINING PROGRAM HAD BEGUN. USING DRUGS AND HYPNOSIS, A CLANDENSTINE FACTION OF THE CIA MADE A PROGRAMMED KILLER OF LUIS CASTILLO.

IN DEEP TRANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES, THIS IS WHAT HE RDMEMBERED ABOUT THE KILLING OF JOHN KENNEDY: HE HAD MET FOUR OR FIVE MEN AT AN AIRPORT AND WAS DRIVEN TO A BUILDING (PROBABLY DALTEX) IN A BLACK CAR. COVERED BY A


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"SPANISH" GUY ON HIS LEFT AND AN AMERICAN BEHIND, HE CLIMBED TO A SECOND STORY ROOM. THERE, THE AMERICAN OPENED A SACHEL AND PRODUCED A RIFLE WHICH HE ASSEMBLED, SETTING THE SCOPE AT 500 YARDS. IN ONE TRANSCRIPT, CASTILLO CALLED THIS MAN "SHAW" BUT USUALLY REMEMBERED HIM AS "DENT" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. CASTILLO'S INSTRUCTIONS WAS TO SHOOT AT A MAN SEATED WITH A LADY IN THE BACK SEAT OF AN OPEN CAR, IN THE MIDDLE OF A "CARAVAN". SOMEBODY WOULD FLASH A SMALL MIRROR FROM A BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET. TWO FLASHES WOULD SIGNAL HE SHOULD START FIRING. HE WAS THEN LEFT ALONE IN THE ROOM, BUT AFTER A WHILE, THE AMERICAN RETURNED AND SAID: "THEY GOT HIM ALREADY. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE." THE MAN WHO "GOT HIM"---ONE OF PERHAPS AS MANY AS SEVEN GUNMEN READY AT DIFFERENT ANGLES ALONG THE ROUTE---WAS A BALD-HEADED MAN KNOWN AS JOE. THEY WENT DOWN STAIRS AND GOT INTO A CAR WITH TWO OTHER MEN, CASTILLO SITTING IN THE BACK. SOMEONE GAVE HIM A SHOT. WHEN HE WOKE UP, HE WAS IN A MID-WESTERN HOTEL ROOM WITH A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN WHO SPOKE WITH A GERMAN ACCENT.

LATER THAT EVENING HE REMEMBERED WRITING TO SOME COLLEGE OR RESORT, WHERE THREE DOCTORS MADE HIM "FEEL GOOD". THEN THE CAR IS DRIVING PAST A WOODED AREA ALONG A HWY. BEYOND THIS POINT, DURING HIS PHILIPPINE TRANSESSIONS CASTILLO WOULD BEGIN SUFFERING A TERRIBLE PAIN IN HIS STOMACH AND HIS HEAD WOULD START TO SPIN, AND HE WOULD BEGIN TO MUTTER A WORD "BLUE".

HE HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED IN THE MID-WEST BY THE MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN AND A MAN, BOTH CIA OPERATIVES OPERATING UNDER SMALL BUSINESS COVER. LUIS CASTILLO WAS PROGRAMMED TO KILL, PROGRAMMED TO FORGET. IT'S VERY CONFUSING, BUT AS THE PHILIPPINE SESSIONS WENT ON, IT SEEMED THAT TWO SEPARATE IDENTITIES HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED INTO HIM. HE NO LONGER KNEW WHICH WAS REAL, BY THE TIME HE WAS SENT TO THE PHILIPPINES. IN THE WORDS OF THE HYPNOTIST, HE WAS TRAINED TO BECOME "A ZOMBIE" WHO WOULD RESPOND TO CERTAIN KEY WORDS AND, LIKE A COMPUTER, FOLLOW THE ORDERS THOSE WORDS HAD BEEN GEARED TO AROUSE IN HIM. HE WAS APPARENTLY USED ON OTHER CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS, INCLUDING ONE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THE PHILIPPINE INVESTIGATION ENDED PREMATURELY. SUPPOSEDELY, CASTILLO WAS BEATEN UP BY SOMEONE AND REFUSED TO SUBMIT TO MORE SESSIONS. A BRANCH OF THE US FBI IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS GIVEN ACCESS TO SOME DETAILS OF CASTILLO'S REVELATIONS, AND AT THE VERY START EVEN THE MANILA NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED SEMI-ACCURATE ACCOUNTS. CASTILLO WANTED ASYLUM IN THE PHILIPPINES. INSTEAD, HE WAS SENT BACK TO THE US AND LOS ANGELES IMMIGRATION SOMETIME EARLY IN 1968. ONE SET OF THE INVESTIGATION TAPES IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, BUT NO RECORD OF THIS IS APPARENT. NOR DOES ANY RECORD EXIST OF CASTILLO'S RETURN, APPARENTLY. HE DISAPPEARED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, NEVER TO BE HEARD FROM AGAIN.

SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE ALL THIS STARTED COMING TO LIGHT, WE BEGAN LEARNING SOME VERY MYSTERIOUS THINGS ABOUT SIRHAN B SIRHAN. TO THIS DAY, HE APPARENTLY REMEMBERS NOTHING ABOUT THAT NIGHT IN LOS ANGELES. THE LAST THING HE RECALLS IS HAVING COFFEE WITH A GIRL IN A POLKA-DOT DRESS, WHO WAS STANDING NEXT TO HIM AT THE TIME HE FIRED AT ROBERT KENNEDY AND HAS NEVER BEEN IDENTIFIED. ACCORDING TO THE CASTILLO TRANSCRIPTS THE MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN PROGRAMMER ALSO WORE POLKA-DOT DRESSES. A MAN IN LA HAS BEEN SAYING FOR SOMETIME THAT HE KNOWS THE HYPNOTIST WHO DID THE NUMBER ON SIRHAN, PROGRAMMING HIM TO RESPOND AND



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FIRE WILDLY ON SIGNAL FROM THE GIRL IN THE POLKA-DOT DRESS. HOW THIS CASTILLO MATERIAL CAME INTO PROFESSOR POPKIN'S HANDS IS ALMOST AS INCREDIBLE AS THE STORY ITSELF. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PSYCHOLOGIST BOUGHT A COPY OF POPKIN'S BOOK "A SECOND OSWALD" IN 1969, THEN WROTE POPKIN PRAISING HIS BOOK AND REVEALING SOME OF WHAT HE KNEW. BUT POPKIN WAS IN LONDON AT THE TIME AND THE LETTER WAS MISTAKENLY FILED AWAY, UNOPENED. THIS SPRING IN ST. LOUIS, WHERE HE TEACHES PHILOSOPHY, HE WAS CLEANING OUT SOME BOXES WHEN HE CAME ACROSS IT. HE HAS SINCE MET WITH THE HYPNOTIST, AND NOW POSSESSES HUNDREDS OF PAGES OF DOCUMENTATION. IT SEEMS LIKE DESTINY MUST HAVE WAITED FIVE YEARS. IF POPKIN HAD OPENED THE LETTER IN 1970, AND GONE PUBLIC, IT WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN LAUGHED AWAY. NOW, JUST AS THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION APPEARS WITH ADMISSIONS OF CIA "BEHAVIOR MOD" EXPERIMENTS INCLUDING LSD ETC., THIS COMES TO LIGHT.

THE WORD ABOUT WHAT POPKIN HAS IS BEGINNING TO GET OUT. HE SENT TELEGRAMS TO THE WHITE HOUSE, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND A NUMBER OF KEY CONGRESS PEOPLE AND INVESTIGATORS. PHILIP BUCHEN, FORD'S TOP AIDE, HAS REPLIED, SAYING HE WAS DEFERRING THE MATTER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. THOSE PEOPLE ALSO WROTE, INVITING POPKIN TO SEND THE MATERIAL. NOW HE WILL MEET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI AND WITH CHURCH COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 10TH.

DURING THE 1967 SESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE HYPNOTIST GOT A LIST OF NAMES FROM THE CLAY SHAW TRIAL AND THREW THEM AT CASTILLO IN TRANCE TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY RESPONSE. CASTILLO DID KNOW OSWALD, FERRIE, SHAW AND A FEW OTHERS ALREADY IDENTIFIED WITH THE PLOT. ALL THE MEDIA PEOPLE WHO HAVE TALKED TO POPKIN HAVE HAD TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT PROMISING SILENCE UNTIL THE STORY GETS SOLD.

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