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HW

HOTEL EL ROMANO

Humboldt 55

México, D. F.

Richard Case Nagell  
Fed Medical Center

Springfield Ill

DMC-7-16606-H



E. Carl McHabb  
(Name)

*[Faint handwritten notes and scribbles]*

Memo: Re new info in case of Richard Case Nagell

July, 1968

The following memo was written from information obtained from interviews with Linda Wayland and Judy Hansen, both of Minneapolis, and from a handwritten statement from Linda. Linda was interviewed on July 20 and Judy, her roommate, on July 21. The contact had been initiated by Linda following a talk given on the assassination by myself during which I had mentioned Nagell. Linda stated that she had thought that the whole thing was nonsense until I mentioned Nagell. She is well known to Elaine Johnson who has been working on the case for some time now and there is no reason to question the honesty of either girl. The girls gave almost identical accounts of the incident.

On the evening of February 20, 1968, Linda and Judy were in the dining room of the El Romano Hotel in Mexico City, having recently arrived in Mexico as tourists. They were pondering over the menu when a young man at the next table struck up a conversation by advising them about what food to avoid and recommending certain choices on the menu. He ordered them wine for dinner and they decided to invite him to join them which he did immediately.

The girls gave identical descriptions of the man. He appeared to be in his late 20's or early 30's and Judy remembers him giving his age as 26. He was about 6 ft. tall. His hair was sandy color or light brown and was cut quite short, although not a crew cut. It was parted on the left and well groomed. He was of average build, nice looking, and did not wear glasses. His features were unremarkable and he was very well dressed, polite, and well mannered.

The man introduced himself as Vince but later said that he had many aliases and that Vince was not his real name. He eventually told them that his real name was E. Carl McHabb. He told the girls that he had no family and Judy thinks that he also told them that he was raised in an orphanage.

Linda

The man said that he lived in Florida and ~~she~~ thought that he specified Miami or Palm Beach. He claimed to be in business with another man which involved selling used aircraft. Most of the selling is done in South America but it sounded as though they did some selling in the U.S. (i.e. Texas according to Judy). He said that he was about to be deported and lose his citizenship and suggested that it was because of his travels and business dealings. He mentioned selling aircraft "to some of those small countries—the government didn't like it." He seemed a little upset about the prospect of losing his citizenship and said that he would be able to come back and visit but could not stay. A couple of times in his conversation he referred to the U.S. as "your country" which annoyed both girls.

During the 2 to 3 hour conversation that followed they discussed a number of topics. One was travel. He appeared to be well travelled and mentioned places in Europe, Africa, and South America. Linda got the impression that he knew Africa well and may have lived there. Judy remembered Spain as having come up because he told her privately that he knew someone who had a villa in Spain and invited her to spend a week there.

He mentioned taking planes to Europe to call later in the conversation.

At one point they spoke about poetry. The attached photostatic copy is of a portion of an El Royale Hotel envelope on which he wrote his name and also 4 lines of poetry. They are supposedly the last 4 lines of a lengthy poem which was written by a friend of his who allegedly died in a plane crash. Both girls thought that he told them more about the friend but couldn't remember any more.

Although the girls can't remember exactly how, they got on the subject of the Kennedy assassination. He gave the impression that he thought that it was a deplorable act and that JFK was a great man. He questioned the Warren Report and said that Garrison was on the right track. He gave the girls the impression that he had had some dealings with Garrison. He told them that when they returned home they should get a February 5th Newsweek and on the back page they would see the name of the man who financed the assassination. He said he wouldn't tell them the name but said that they should look it up and remember it and that when the real truth were revealed that this would be the man. (Note: That page mentions the wealthy Sarah Fordon Holendon.)

By this time both girls had decided that the guy was a big talker trying to impress two young midwestern girls. Linda asked him why they should believe him and how he happened to know all this. He said that he had worked for the C.I.A. at one time.

Sometime earlier in the conversation he had mentioned being at the Russian Embassy that day. When they began discussing the C.I.A. he proceeded to tell them about a man named Nagell who had been a double agent for Russia and the U.S. The girls couldn't remember most of what he had told them about Nagell, but upon reading the January 1968 Ramparts article (only the portion dealing with Nagell) they said that this was essentially the story he had given them although they could not vouch for any specific detail. As they remembered it before being shown the Ramparts, he said that Nagell was in a mental institution in Illinois. He said Nagell was very depressed and was very insistent about the girls writing him a friendly little letter. He wrote down Nagell's address on the attached paper. (It is important to note that the Ramparts article said that Nagell was in Leavenworth, not Springfield.) He mentioned that his visit to the Russian Embassy had something to do with Nagell. Both girls were left with the impression that he had seen or talked with Nagell recently. They were supposed to mention him by the name Carl in the letter to Nagell and to explain how they had learned of him. He commented that the Russian Embassy is across from the American Embassy and that the American Embassy sits and watches the Russian Embassy constantly. They found this interesting because they later noticed that in a general information book about Mexico City, various embassies were mentioned, but there wasn't any mention of a Russian Embassy.

Neither of the girls wrote to Nagell. They felt if it were all true than it was something to stay away from. They also felt "Vince"

was some kind of a nut. They couldn't understand why, if it were really true, they would tell it to two complete strangers. In fact, he made a comment that if they worked for the FBI he'd be in jail tomorrow. Although Linda kept a diary while on vacation, she barely mentioned the incident in her diary because they were both so skeptical. She and her roommate were both amazed when they read about Nagell in the Ramparts I showed them.

At some time in the conversation the man mentioned having a roommate in Florida who is a doctor and who smokes pot. This led to a discussion on drugs and made the girls wonder whether Vince was a pusher or addict of some sort. He did not appear to be a drinker and had none of the wine he had ordered them for dinner although they drank a lot of coffee. Judy remembers only 1 after dinner drinks but Linda seems to remember more.

The man told the girls that he was leaving the next day and Linda thinks that he said he was going to Columbia while Judy thinks that it was some small South or Central American country. They told him that they were leaving for Alcapulco on Sunday (25th) and they told him where they would be staying. He said that he would meet them in Alcapulco on Monday (26th) and take them for a plane ride. Judy remembers it as almost a definite date with him saying that he would have them paged at the hotel beach if they weren't in the hotel. They both appeared to be glad that they never saw the guy again.

Near the end of the evening Linda went back to their room and Judy stayed to talk to the guy for about 15 minutes more. It was then that he mentioned that his real name wasn't Vince and wrote E. Carl McNabb on the envelope on which he had written the 4 lines of poetry earlier. Judy does not remember anything in particular which he talked about during this time although it is very likely that it was then that he suggested that she might fly to Spain with him for a week at his friend's villa.

Notes: It would be useful to determine if the prisoner number McNabb gave for Nagell was correct. It is interesting that he knew that Nagell was in Springfield. While it is possible that having the girls write to Nagell and mention the meeting might have some significance in terms of "McNabb" communicating something to Nagell, this appears to be the much used CIA stunt of planting the same info in many spots so that when it surfaces it appears to lend consensual validation to a story.

Gary Richard Schoener

Addendum to memo on new info in Magall case involving E. Carl McNabb:

These notes were made following a surprise visit with David Kroman at his apartment at 3500 Emerson Ave., S., in Minneapolis. Elaine Johnson, a co-worker, was present at all times, and most of the remarks on Kroman's reactions come from her observations since my vision was seriously impaired by injuries received earlier in the month. Date: July 22, 1968

During an hour or so of casual talk I inserted a number of questions dealing with McNabb. Mention of the name McNabb brought a slight reaction from Kroman and he immediately admitted knowing him. He made many efforts to determine my source of info but I did not, of course, reveal it. I convinced him that my info was very sparse and that I had no idea what McNabb looked like. When I suddenly asked him for McNabb's height, he said that he was smaller than me--5'9" at the very most. Almost immediately he realized that he had made a slip in giving me a description since he could not be sure that I didn't really know what McNabb's description was. Answers to all other questions were vague. For example, when I asked for hair color he described it as non-descript--neither light nor dark. He said that McNabb could look young or old and that due to use of contacts his eye color could vary. Both Elaine and myself detected marked defensiveness on Kroman's part which was a marked change from his earlier admission of knowing McNabb. He then volunteered that McNabb always stays at the Del Prado Hotel when in Mexico City and indicated that he had had contacts with him for a second time. I said that my info indicated that McNabb was a friend of Magall's but Kroman emphasized that he was not. When I casually mentioned that McNabb knew that Magall was a double agent he had a tremendous startle reaction to the words "double agent." (Elaine said that it was very marked and that he stared at me sharply. Due to my eyesight I noticed nothing.)

During the conversation Kroman emphasized that any dealings with McNabb would be very dangerous. He again, as in my other contacts with him, emphasized that it was too late to solve the case and that it wasn't worth any risks. He then made what appeared to be a subtle threat by suggesting that "the other side" might take advantage of my condition and damage my good eye. He mentioned that one of his co-workers, Dolores Salzberger, was completely blind due to injuries received while working on the case. Kroman's manner was unusually terse from the time he gave McNabb's height until we left.

Telephone call received evening of July 22, 1968 from Kroman:

Although he would appear to have had no way of knowing where I was staying, Kroman surprised me with a telephone call the same night. I was staying with friends of mine who were not previously known to Kroman and having already spoken to him, I had not expected to hear from him again.

Kroman said that he had not been able to talk freely earlier in the day due to Elaine's presence. I replied that I would never bring anyone with me who was not completely trustworthy and that he should know that. He then said that he thought that she was under psychiatric care or something like that. I asked him what gave him that idea and then he said, "Oh, I guess that was your old girlfriend, the blond, who was in therapy." (Note: Kroman had never met my old girlfriend who is blond and who was in therapy nor did I ever discuss her with him. Even if I had I would not have had occasion to mention either her hair color or the therapy. Needless to say, his excuse wasn't too convincing.)

He apologized for trying to scare me earlier and said that the reason was that he thought that I was getting myself into a dangerous area of the case. He then said that he's never heard of a McNabb and that he was confusing it with a Joe McHair or Joe McCabe who is a very dangerous character. Nagell was never mentioned nor was any explanation for his "mistake" with all of his talk about McNabb given. He said that McHair was 5'9", 175 lbs, brown hair with receding hairline, from Brooklyn, and that he had worked as a bellboy in the Hilton Hotel in Mexico City in 1966. He has also been a TWA steward and worked at the Riviera in Las Vegas in 1965. He then said that he was 36 yrs old and that he had protruding eyes like Kroman's. In the early 60's he worked for National Life Insurance in St. Louis and Max Lubin, of the syndicate, was his boss. Lubin, who is out of St. Louis, is one of the big 10 of Cosa Nostra. The syndicate boys were caught when the FBI used the Henderson Novelty Company as a front and bugged the hotel. I missed some details since he rattled them off very fast and in a very confident manner. He mentioned that he would be in Cleveland at 333-2833 (his home) from the 12th to the 24th of August should I need any help. He suggested that Elaine Johnson should look in on Dolores Salzberger, his blind co-worker, who would be staying in his apartment for much of the time I would be away.

When I return to Minneapolis I will get a full report on Elaine's contacts with Dolores. Elaine, who is quite familiar with blind people and their behavior, is convinced after the first meeting that Dolores is not blind. Although Dolores has contacted me by phone and called in when I have been on the radio, I have never met her.

Notes: I feel certain that Kroman either knows McNabb or knows of him and that he gave me an incorrect height for him in an effort to deceive me. This contact with Kroman has strengthened my feeling that he is Company and that the Nagell story is not to be trusted. Nagell's wife and children are among the missing, and although Kroman insists that they are "safe" in Japan, he has no reply when it is pointed out that no where in the world is anyone safe from the Company. I suspect that McNabb, or whatever his name is, is also company and is engaged in planting false info in the same manner as Kroman.

Gary Richard Schoener