

Rt 8, Frederick, Md. 21701 8/10/73

Dear Peter,

Glad your letter of the 3rd came today before I resume writing, which I do intensively when I get into it. Thus I respond immediately.

You say more on the Nixon-CDM connection than Turner does. I am always dubious about his work, knowing from first-hand experience that he is a retailer who is frequently unfaithful to his usually-uncredited source, a man who regards plagiarism as proper. I would like to be able to carry what you write further but don't know if I'll have the time. It fits. It is also entirely consistent.

I have woven together more of these kinds of Nixon-Hunt links but can't take time for them now. I will be writing them, have roughed out some. Tied down dependably, that Kohly/CDM/Rex business could be good. If and when you are here again, remember to get me to go into the timing of the Rex raid for you. CIA had just begun to implement JFK's policies re Castro. Ditto, also reluctantly, for FBI, Customs, etc. It also immediately followed a revanchist powwow in Guatemala (to whose friendly government they were at least in part indebted to Hunt).

I have the Hunt galleys, not from Szulc, who I've never spoken to. I also have some of Cushman's memos. He lied more extensively than you note but again, I can't now take time to inform you fully. CIA was willing to be much more helpful to Hufit/White House than he said, or than Helms or Walters said, and they actually offered me help after the time they say they cut it off. Hunt was a hog, that's the only reason he didn't accept their offer. Ervin suppressed this. He has it.

Haven't read a.m. paper yet, but let me note for you the Ecuador IIT operation, paralleling Chile/CIA and that IIT has a long history of this. I have old files going back to probably the 30s on this.

The only links I can recall between ONI and Cuban activities are tenuous. Bay Figs, I understand (N.O. reporter) that they fingered the Houma cache, which supposedly belonged to the French colons. ONI, also N.O., Guy Johnson, had sources on Oswald he won't disclose and reported what had been suppressed, an Oswald lakefront contact, supposedly homosexual, that has an odd duplication in the Garrison fictions. I recall nothing connecting Army intelligence, but I may have forgotten. My memory isn't what it once was.

Butler, however, is a different story. I have much on him, some of which I'll be using, some I won't. He was probably part of the State UnAmerican committee activity and he had good Senate Internal Security connections. I have an extensive file on him. Met him only once, when I hadn't been in bed for more than a day.

I'm sorry you didn't go over my Cuban files before you went through the Archives. You might have speeded your work there up and would have been more sensitive to what may have been declassified or just returned to the files after I went through them, which was long ago. Did you learn anything you believe is new there?

There is a pretty big Cuban archive at Stanford, if you didn't know it. I don't know what it has. A directory of Americans in Cuba used to be printed. I can probably find the reference if you should want it.

Thanks for telling me your source on the Nixon/CDM connection. If you get any more on it and have no objection to use, I'd welcome it.

Sincerely,

2823 Ashby Ave.,
Berkeley Cal. 94705
August 3, 1973

Dear Harold Weisberg,

Your letter of July 6 only reached me this week, and from Jim White in Mill Valley.

But before I left Washington I did see the Hunt ms., which contradicted Cushman's testimony to the Ervin Comm. on two points

1. Hunt called Cushman his old office-mate in CIA from a period before H's ~~time~~ Uruguay posting and the Bay of Pigs (Cushman suggested a very oblique contact with Hunt, if any)

2. Hunt called ~~the~~ Nixon the White House Action officer on the Bay of Pigs — just as Fred Cook called it in his 1964 Nation article (Cushman implied that Nixon merely followed the operation in preparation for his presidency).

The Nixon-Cuban link I mentioned to you was his defense of Mario Garcia Kohn in the latter's 1963 arrest for forging Cuban pesos (cf. Bill Turner's Power on the Right and the Liberty Lobby's Washington Observer panim.) I understand that in 1963 the CDM was backing Tostly as Cuban leader — also that CDM was involved in the ~~November~~ October 1963 raid by the Rex.

(according to Centro). I myself would be grateful
for anything you know linking late-1963
Cuban activities to either ONI or Army
Intelligence, esp. the latter. Ditto Mr Edward S.
Butler, whose successor Richard Warren
at INCA was an ex-Army Intelligence agent.

I would indeed have liked to see your
Cuban files. Perhaps if I return to Washington
in the fall something can be worked out then. As it
was I spent nearly all my time in the
Archives (except for the days with you & ~~Sublet~~ ^{Szulec})
& never did go to Dallas.

It was good to meet you, though frustrating.
One day was not really enough to reach the
frontiers of your expertise. Perhaps the next
time we will be more focused and specific.

Give my best to Jim Lera the next time
you see him.