

April 19, 1969

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Dear Gary,

It's been some time since I last wrote but I do have some questions you may be in a position to answer.

When Bud Fensterwald was in town about two weeks ago I discussed with him a certain Haitian exile who was a friend of DeMohrenschildt and was with him in Haiti the day the JFK was assassinated. I wrote to this Haitian and asked him several questions concerning DeMohrenschildt and mentioned one name of whom Fensterwald recalled as being similar to one he was interested in pursuing. The name given to me by the source on the Haitian said it was "Gargeu" whose first name was unknown. When Fensterwald saw this name he said it was similar to a "Georgiou" he knew of. When I asked in what connection that name had appeared he said it was a name that Abraham Bolden had been asked about in prison. (I have notes on this and cannot recall whether Bolden was asked about this name by the FBI or Garrison's men but it seems to me that the FBI asked him from what Bud told me). Bud suggested that I contact Bolden's lawyer, John Hosmer, in Springfield, Mo. and inquire through him about this name.

Bud's suggestion is a good idea but I thought it would be better to write you and see if you could, perhaps, contact Bolden personally or through Galt and find out what Bolden knows of either of these two names.

Let me give you a background on this so that you can be in a position to ask the questions that can elicit the answers I'm seeking. According to this Haitian who knew DeMohrenschildt well in Haiti (I did not get this information from the Haitian but from a friend of his so it is second-hand information at best) supposedly Clay Shaw had a secret bank account linking him with a man known as "Joseph Charles Cremard" who was head of the Commercial Bank in Haiti. Shaw had "dealings" with this Commercial Bank and according to the source DeMohrenschildt was hired by this Mr. Cremard (although I have no information as to what he was hired for but a guess would be for his work as a petroleum engineer).

This source also said that somehow the Murchisons of Texas were in some way connected with all this although it was not specified as to how. According to the Haitian, Cremard got the "Cecil Monopoly" referring to it again as the "Cecil Fiber Monopoly" elsewhere in my interview and also discussed a large amount of money involved in a deal involving the baking (flour) industry. The name of Gargeu came up in connection with the Murchisons but was not spelled out as to how he entered into this.

Bud Fensterwald said that I may be in error on the spelling of "Cecil" and that the actual spelling could be Sesal, instead. (I think this is a term used in geology but I'm not sure but you could check this out).

Very recently, in doing some reading on Haiti I came across an item in the "Nation" magazine of March 31, 1969 that appears to confirm the name of one of these persons mentioned in my letter to the Haitian. (By the way, he never responded to my query). In that issue there is a reference to a "Clemart Joseph Charles" who is described in the article ("Haiti: Ripe for the Marines?") as President Duvalier's personal banker. This is how the article went:

"...At one time, the President (Francois Duvalier) began talking about "The Snake and the bottle of milk." No one quite understood. Then the fable was printed in a government newspaper: The snake got inside the bottle and drank all the milk. Thus it became too fat and could escape only by vomiting the milk back into the bottle. The President has applied the moral to some of his close associates by confiscating their lucrative businesses. The most famous case is that of Clemart Joseph Charles, Duvalier's personal banker. Mr. Charles was arrested in July, 1967, and his Commercial Bank was turned over to an organization euphemistically called "Mixed Enterprises of the State." Thirty-three other businesses of Mr. Charles, including car and life insurance for state employees, were seized. After eight months in jail, Mr. Charles was released, his wealth all back in the bottle."

By the way, if you'll read that article there is a reference to the Murchison's also. Interestingly enough it relates to the flour industry as suggested by my letter to the Haitian exile. The Nation says that "a crisis of currency exchanges necessarily resulted and American companies in Haiti have considered closing down. In fact the Caribbean Flour Mills, owned by the Murchisons (underlining mine) of Texas, ceased operations last May."

There's more I could write about but I have to run so I guess I'll close now. I do hope that everything is going well for you. Hal just sent me a letter I received today and I'm sending a reply right off because he says that I violated a confidence in letting someone see something he says they had no right to see. I don't know what it's all about and I hope to rectify it all with the letter I'll be sending together with yours. I guess it was bound to happen but Hal feels I've betrayed his trust. I certainly never intended to. In fact, I don't even know what he's talking about.

Got to run now and get this out.

Best,
Hal Verb
Hal Verb