

Dear Mr. Volz,

8/15/72

If I'd known you were going to call, I'd have collected my thoughts better. Other things had occupied me all day and after getting home. And if I'd not had to get up at 5 a.m. I'd have been more alert and perhaps more helpful.

Where I had to stop short it was more than preserving confidentiality, tho I'm sure you realize that is more than enough. If you do as I suggested, it should not take you more than an hour. I figured it out without moving from my desk and I confirmed it later, with no trouble at all.

As you must have noticed, I am pretty free on my phone. However, it is not because there are no interests in me. I can show you carbons of official espionage on me. So, when I deal with others, I feel ⁺ must be careful not to cause them any trouble or run even the slight risk of it. For this reason alone I could mention no source.

Thus I had to almost mislead you on the Mexican reporter. I didn't correct you when you spoke of a man. It is a woman, and a damned good and locally well-connected reporter.

If I were working on this story, one of the things I'd be checking back on now is who did what leaking. The Department of Disinformation did rather well. Example, bum war names for Hunt and Barker. Once this was leaked, nobody did the obvious check Haynes Johnson's definitive work. No such code names are in his Bay of Pigs. Example 2: Ameritas, which led everyone in the wrong way but seemed legit. Example 3, the misleading information so accomodatingly provided on the out-of-date electronic equipment. Need more?

I believe the FCC licenses are public information. I'm certain you'll find at least one more ~~trans~~ transceiver licensed for the frequencies of the two on the five when arrested. If there were two there, this means the party at some point had divided or was going to but had to remain in contact. If you find only one more licensed on those frequencies, you may have trouble finding out who had it that night, but I think the Caddy explanation I gave you makes more sense than anything I've seen, and McCord a) had control of all this committee equipment and b) has his own lawyer, separate from the others and much more costly than he can afford, F. Lee Bailey.

I am enclosing my last extra copies of the Hunt bio material, sources indicated.

Most people don't realize it, and it may in this case be irrelevant, but many Batista millionaires got their millions to Florida. So, well-placed rumors there could have produced much money.

I really do think you should get the dust-jacket pictures of Hunt and check with some Bay of Pigs (and other) vets. If he is the guy who engineered that fiasco and he then became a White House adviser who could not possibly have done the work allegedly assigned to him, there is an entirely different kind of story if you recall the real inside story of the Bay of Pigs. Bender represented one of two factions in the men preparing for that caper. Some of the others were treated with bestiality and may be interested in getting even. I know at least one solid citizen who was captured at the Bay of Pigs. He would know.

Should you have to make a hasty check on any New Orleans characters, the librarian at the papers (States-Item and Times-Picayune same, Newhouse, ownership) is a good one and a nice guy, Warren Hardelle.

In my work on the Kennedy assassination and more, on its investigation, ⁺ have found it helpful to keep two books in mind: Alice in Wonderland and The Purloined Letter. You will, I think, find this helpful in following some of the leads I gave you and you will not surprise me one bit if you find that Hunt was working for ⁺ullen before he left the CIA.

Meanwhile, I suggest that the FBI investigation is compromised by the lingering Hooveresque concept of self: McCord was one of their boys. Need you know more than what they omitted from the Fiorini reports I gave you? Not because they didn't know it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg