

7/23/73

Dear Bud,

I've read the galley of Hunt's Give Us This Day, enclosed. Earlier I gave you an appraisal of it. I'll mail this when I get to the post office, probably Wednesday, for I'd rather insure it.

I don't know how much McCord knows about either Hunt or the Bay of Pigs. If he is an amateur shrink, I think he may learn a fair amount about Hunt from this work, more if he knows the real story of the Bay of Pigs.

If he wants to read accounts of the Bay of Pigs, the standard work is Haynes Johnson's The Bay of Pigs. For the most part, I believe it. There is a lengthy section of Arthur Schlesinger's 1000 Days. While Schlesinger is not one of my favorites, I believe that by and large it is correct, in terms of what the White House actually knew. Ditto for Sorensen's Kennedy. I have not read Tad Szulc's book on the Bay of Pigs. It may interest McCord to know that none mentions any "Eduardo" or describes any person in any such role.

I am confident that none of the people mentioned is unknown outside CIA. Or, there is no question about giving away secrets or blowing covers. So, I think it might be a useful project if McCord wants to read this, if he were to do what I did not, list each name as it occurs, with a reference to the galley number, with correct identification if he knows it. My recollection of the rule Hunt followed was to hide the identification of those he liked, not protect the CIA or its proper secrets.

The scanty references to Hunt's wife in this book are consistent with the feeling I had developed that theirs was not the warm, trusting and close relationship one presumes between husband and wife. I can't be sure at this point that, if true, it has any relevance. Except, perhaps, psychological.

I don't believe I have ever told you, and it may interest McCord to know what I was told by a non-Cuban CIA man who was involved in the Bay of Pigs about the history of Johnson's book. In brief, it is that it was, in effect, a commissioned book, to represent the government view as much as possible. If it interests McCord, I'll tell him the whole story. He can make his own evaluation. I know only what I was told.

As I was reorganizing some files of a year ago recently, preparatory to refiling them, I got the feeling that almost immediately after the break-in someone in official position began a systematic leaking of information mixed with deception one of the purposes of which it was to do what McCord later said, seem to pin it on CIA. I hope to be able to read these clippings in the near future. I have set them aside for this purpose. Perhaps this also may interest McCord, as I think figuring out who did it might.

If McCord wants to discuss any of these things, fine. I think that unless he has the kinds of things that might attract his daughter that we have, he might also enjoy bringing her here. Not much over a half hour from the Rockville cloverleaf.

There are parts of Hunt's previous career it may serve his interest to reconstruct, if it is unknown to him. I have some suspicions that, for example, might mean much if he were ever a witness in court.

If you or Bob have it, I have mislaid my accounts of Baldwin's testimony. Don't know if you have the transcripts, and Jim is away for two weeks. All I need now is his account of his observation of the arrival of the tac squad, what he observed thereafter at the Watergate, and his account of Hunt's flight. If you can mail this to me, or if Bob can, I'd appreciate it.

Please excuse the haste. I wrote from the time I awakened until I took Lil to her office and from the time I got back until the hearings started. I haven't read the morning paper yet and it is 1 p.m. I want to catch the hearings this p.m.

Sincerely,