

Memo from <sup>+</sup>Aranoia Lane

Re: Crash of U.S. Army helicopter ferrying seven Secret Service agents to Grand Cay, Bahamas, the night of May 26, 1973, to relieve those guarding Nixon and his family, killing one agent and injuring six and three members of the crew.

No suggestion as to the possible cause, which raises a question since other details, such as the precise time, 10:10 p.m., are given.

The question raised is whether this was an accident or the result of ground fire or pre-flight sabotage. A sub-question involves the target: whether it was Nixon and a mistake was made, or whether this could have been a warning of more to be expected.

The statistical probability of a simple accident is high, since this seems to be the first involving a Secret Service crew. However, it has happened, and has happened now.

Radical Cuban refugees cannot be happy about the course Nixon has disclosed in his Son of Checkers speech and his more recent 4,000-word statement to the press and media on 22May73. These have made it clear, especially in the light of testimony by McCord at the Watergate hearings in the Senate, that if executive clemency was promised to Hunt and the four Cubans convicted for the Watergate break-in, it is no longer operative. If the Cubans believed that executive clemency was promised (whether it was nor not), their confreres in and around Miami could be expected to react with typical and indignant fury, somewhat as they reacted to JFK and the way they considered he let them down at the BoFP. Barker's testimony makes it clear they believed Hunt when he told them executive clemency could be expected and that they regard Hunt as a hero who also is now being let down from their standpoint.

Penetration of Army security for sabotage of a chopper would be relatively easier for the Cubans than if they had to get through that of the Secret Service itself. jdw27may73