

JUL 26 1972

Dear Jim,

HUNT- BIO

7/25/72

Re your 7/21, devil's advocacy is what we all need and the few from whom I ever get it are too busy with their major endeavors.

You are correct on Hunt's Asia experience and I have it noted in the various biographical materials, inc. what Jø sent from Who's Who, the various news accounts, etc. I think I meant Vietnam but don't know.

When I get to really doing something with this I'll reread all of the appropriate parts of Invisible Government. I did go over Bay of Pigs in the perhaps mistaken assumption Haynes Johnson would have given it more attention.

There is at least one news account, I think from a Miami papers, also identifying Bender as seeming European. (Makes me think of Vosjoli in ref to Maquis) And there are refs to a pipe smoker I can't immediately place, I think in ref to Hunt but perhaps to Bender at Retalhuleu or Miami.

If he was old enough to have been active in the CBI during WWII The Who's Who 1918 d.o.b. fits well enough and the same, pretty much, would have to be true of a Maqui, although there were some kids. (We know a woman who as a kid was a courier and today still sleeps lighter than a cat.)

~~Bender~~ ^{Hunt} has given inconsistent descriptions without doubt on purpose, one coming to mind without checking files 1908 in Contemporary Authors. Somewhere I have the date of his graduation from Brown.

As you realize, I've been trying to prod those with greater capabilities to get his picture, any vintage.

Except for the description of his looking in his 50s at Retalhuleu, the rest, inc. history buff, does fit.

My reasoning was simple. The false cover names were leaked immediately. Barker is described as assistant to the man in charge. Hunt is described as one of the top men. Unless Hunt was subordinate to Berker, which is impossible to believe, then the reverse has to be true and Hunt is Bender. And since then I have a Miami identification of him as Bender, I'm pretty sure.

The Invisible Government line, ~~XXXXXX during the months that followed~~ "He was rumored to be everywhere -- in New York, Miami and Guatemala..." also fits. The last two need no amplification, but we can add to what Wise and Ross could have known the Hunt use of a New York address and what Schlesinger brought to light, CIA use of a NY p.r. outfit at the time of the invasion." Perhaps recruiting, specialized or otherwise, would have been a proper pre-invasion function of the top man?

Bay Pig refs to Bender 31-3;37;54-5,58. To "Bernie" ("Sitting Bull"[Macho?]) 60-1, upperback. First cit describes Bender as "An American", Arttime source. "I am the man in charge of the Cuban case"(32) (... "defeat of communism everywhere"--could it fit Hunt better?)

Possibly bearing on McCord (32) Bender's promise, "...we will train radio operators..."

54-5 describes a Frank "not to be confused with Frank Bender." And as man who "took charge" at a certain switch in trainin in Guatemala. ("Florid, sandy-haired, aggressive and commanding figure." But the indexer does confuse, listing Bender on both pages whereas there is but the single re on 54.2

58 places Bender in Miami.

All in all, remarkably little and no description of "the man in charge." Now the ref. to "Bernie", easily if not surely Bernhard Barker, is as the man above the not-to-be-confused Frank: "Since Frank ws away from the base when the crisis occurred, the other Americans sent for his superior in Guatemala, a man ~~known~~ they called "Bernie"... To the Cubans he was known as "Sitting Bull" because of his short, stocky, swarthy appearance." Or, Bernie was in charge in Guatemala and under the "I am the man in charge" Frank Bender.

On Bender's being spotted in the Congo, wasn't that 1965? And didn't it include Cubans working for the CIA. Like Frank Bartes, who admitted it to me? When, whether or not his claim to have been a consultant to Defense was true, Hunt was still in CIA.

If Bender was "an assistant to top allied planners during the North African invasion in 1942" he would not likely have had the 1918 birthday or been a 24-year-old top-planner assistant. And before his CIA days. I am suggesting Wise & Ross' sources are wrong, because this is even more unlikely if Bender was "a man in his 50s" in 1942.

Doubt is more than possible. Not that Bender in those days would have looked a bit haggard and worn. And people do make mistakes in age, specially in guessing mine because in part I'm not gray. hw