

29 May 1973

Dear Hal:

The Washington Post for May 17, 1973, carries a long story by Bernstein and Woodward on "Vast GOP Undercover Operation originated in 1969" detailing the dirty tricks etc in addition to the Watergate breakin during the campaign for the second term.

Toward the end it quotes a William Rhatigan, described as a former assistant to White House aide Charles Colson, as saying he understood that Colson used campaign funds to set up veterans groups (Vietnam vets are specified) to support the President. "The groups had the appearance of being volunteer organizations. Mel Stevens, a consultant to the Veterans Administration, was lent to Colson to set up a pro-Nixon veterans group that also used government money, according to White House and Veterans Administration officials."

Nothing more about Mr. Stevens.

Have you any clue, whether this could be our Mel ?

His wife called here some months ago, inquiring about a UFO research group we had discussed with her earlier. She was calling from LA, as I recall it, but I got the impression she was there only temporarily and that she did not say where they now are stationed. The last word we had from them by mail came some years ago from Charleston, S.C., and since then they've been in Europe as I recall.

Don't go to any trouble on this. I ask merely on the chance you may recall enough about him to have an opinion.

I hope all goes well with you. As for us, we have a strong suspicion that there is no light at the end of the tunnel, merely another tunnel.

Best,



jdw