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February 14, 1991

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics
and International Communications
222 R.S.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

The following information is provided at the request of Mr. Tosh Plumlee and is to document specific contacts he made with my Senate Office during the years of 1983 through 1985.

In March of 1983, Plumlee contacted my Denver Senate Office and met with Mr. Bill Holen of my Senate Staff. During the initial meeting, Mr. Plumlee raised certain allegations concerning U.S. foreign and military policy toward Nicaragua and the use of covert activities by U.S. intelligence agencies. He indicated that he was personally involved in covert military intelligence activities in Central and South America beginning in February 1978. He stated that he had grave concerns that certain intelligence information about illegal arms and narcotic shipments were not being appropriately acted upon by U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Mr. Plumlee's stated purpose in contacting my office was to attempt to initiate a congressional investigation of these allegations. Mr. Plumlee stated that he had personally flown U.S.-sponsored covert missions into Nicaragua. He stated that Nicaragua was receiving assistance from Cuba with nearly 6,000 Cuban military advisors and large quantities of military supplies were being stockpiled at various staging areas inside Nicaragua and the Costa Rica border.

Mr. Plumlee also stated that Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador were providing U.S. military personnel access to secret landing field and various staging areas scattered throughout Central America.

The Honorable John Kerry
Washington, D.C.
February 14, 1991
Page 2

He specifically cited the Mexican government's direct knowledge of illegal arms shipments and narcotic smuggling activities that were taking place out of a civilian ranch in the Veracruz area which were under the control and sponsorship of Rafael Car-Quintero and the Luis Jorge Ochoa branch of the Medellin Escobar Cartel.

Mr. Plumlee stated that the U.S. military and intelligence agencies had been notified through proper channels of these allegations.

During the next three months, Mr. Bill Holen of my staff met with Mr. Plumlee on several occasions allowing him to further elaborate on his experiences and concerns with U.S. military intelligence operations in the region. In those later meetings, Mr. Plumlee raised several issues including that covert U.S. intelligence agencies were directly involved in the smuggling and distribution of drugs to raise funds for covert military operations against the government of Nicaragua. He provided my staff with detailed maps and names of alleged covert landing strips in Mexico, Costa Rica, Louisiana, Arizona, Florida, and California where he alleged aircraft cargoes of drugs were off-loaded and replaced with Contra military supplies. He also stated that these operations were not CIA operations but rather under the direction of the White House, Pentagon and NSC personnel.

My staff brought these allegations to the attention of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee at the time but no action was initiated by either committee.

Sincerely,



Gary Hart

GH/gmcg

January 13, 1991

U.S. Sen. John Kerry Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics,
and International Operations
222 Senate Russell Bldg.
Wash. D.C.

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to confirm that Tosh Plumlee first contacted me in June of 1985. He explained that he had information on military covert operations he was involved in and wanted to establish a non-involved press person to confirm sensitive government documents in his possession, which he'd obtained from flying in Santa Elena, Costa Rica.

The map which I was shown involved mercenary staging areas in Mexico, Costa Rica and El Salvador. There were drug routes from the Medellin Cartel through Panama and Costa Rica and staging areas in Mexico. Names and dates of military and government personnel involved in the soon-to-become public Contra operations were included.

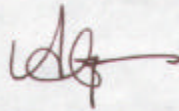
Tosh was primarily concerned at that time with our government's involvement with illegal drug operations, infiltrated by military undercover operatives, and his intent was to get a Senate or Congressional investigation to look into his allegations of drug and gun-running operations through Mexico, El Salvador and Panama.

The map that I saw had the staging routes, aircraft I.D. numbers, names of military personnel and pilots that figured heavily in the future Contra scandal. In July of 1985 Tosh introduced me to Bill Cooper at the Floradora Saloon in Telluride.

To the best of my knowledge it has always been Tosh Plumlee's intent to get a federal investigation into the illegal covert activities instigated by various agencies of our government in Central America.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me at the Telluride Times-Journal where I work, 303-728-4483

Art Goodtimes
journalist/columnist
Telluride Times-Journal



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Listed.