

2003

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13 May 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Project  
FROM: Chief Air Support  
SUBJECT: Telephone Call to [redacted] [redacted] in Hawaii on May 12

1. The following is the transcript of a telephone conversation between [redacted] and [redacted] in Honolulu, Hawaii:
2. This telephone call was made from the Tatem Hotel in Miami Beach. [redacted] registered at this hotel and made subject call.

Transcript From Memory

Hello Bob, this is [redacted] [redacted] - your old buddy Bill, remember? Do you know whose talking?

Sure, Bill, I got you. Go ahead. I understand.

Bob, do you remember the deal that you and I and Ted were working on the last time we were together?

Sure, I remember.

Well, O.K. How would you like another short time contract - say about 2 months at the most with damn good pay.

Go ahead, buddy, I'm listening.

Well, here's the deal. I have connections with some people who need pilots right away to do some contract flying. You remember where I was staying when I wrote you my last letter. Well, it's down that way.

O.K. go ahead, I'm right with you.

Bob, I'm calling from a hotel in Miami and I don't want to say too much or mention the name of the people or my name because someone may be listening and would try to get the job I'm going to tell you about, understand?

Sure, I understand. Whats the scoop?

O.K., here's the dope. This outfit that I know about is willing to pay pilots \$5,000 to fly for them for a period of approximately

60 days.

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60 days. Most of this flying is the same as you and Ted were going with me. You know, lots of instrument work. Understand?

Sure, I know exactly what you mean.

They need an especially good and highly qualified C-47 pilot - one who can and will do the job. I understand the outfit wants these pilots from approximately 25 May to 25 July.

For that kind of dough it sounds to me like the flying must be in Indochina.

No, Bob, nothing like that. If you get the job with the outfit I am talking about you wouldn't travel near that far.

O.K., go ahead.

Here's what I would like for you to do. Can you locate and hire 5 pilots, C-47 pilots, including yourself at 5 Gs each. Also locate and hire 4 more to go along as part of the crew. You know what I mean - to do the dirty work, load and unload like we used to.

I know exactly what you mean and I am sure that I can find exactly the type personnel you have in mind.

This would be two 4 men crews to fly 2 C-47s plus you in charge. You would fill in as an extra pilot when required.

Does that mean that I may not be flying? Is so, what am I supposed to do?

You will be the operations officer in charge and will do the contract work required to get the crews. However, if the occasion arose, you would be required to fly as pilot.

Sounds good to me.

The outfit will pay the other 4 men who are not pilots, \$2,000 each for the same 60 day period.

O.K. Understand.

You would run the contract flights and pay the air crews. In other words, it is your baby and your responsibility. I told this outfit that I had known you a number of years and considered you fully qualified to do the job.

[ ] You

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- [ ] You know you can count on me.
- [ ] Bob, I had rather you select good men who do not know me. Do you understand? I don't want this outfit to think that I am giving jobs to my special friends. I would rather depend on your judgment and not be known by any of the pilots you select. This means that you cannot hire Ted.
- [ ] I understand exactly what you mean and Ted is not here anyway.
- [ ] In addition to the \$5,000 for each pilot and the \$2,000 for each of the other crew members, the outfit will pay all of your transportation costs from and to Hawaii. Bob, this is costing these people about \$25,000 to \$30,000 so they naturally want nothing but the best pilots to do the job-- pilots who are qualified like you and Ted are. For your information this is a much better deal than the other one we were on. This outfit flies a much safer airline, does a lot more planning and etc. Take it from me, it's all O.K.
- [ ] This all sounds good to me. I am glad to know this new outfit does more planning. When do we start?
- [ ] Look around and line up the men to do this job. Remember these men that you line up are working for you. You will be the boy that pays them. In fact, it is strictly your baby. The outfit will tell you what to do and your responsibility is to see that it is done in the right way. Do you think you can line up the pilot and crew by Friday night?
- [ ] I feel sure that I can even though the time is very short. One of the main problems I am going to have is having these men get two months leave with so little notice. I know the men would be willing and ready to accept a contract such as you mention. However, I believe it can be worked and I can have men who would meet your requirements by the end of the month.
- [ ] O.K. Bob, I will call you back Friday night and you can let me know what you have accomplished. Be darn sure that the men you select won't change their mind later. The outfit does not have time to fool around and look for replacement pilots. Be sure the men you select are going to work and see the job through. If they don't, I'm sure going to look bad and lose some friends in the outfit I'm talking about. I have promised them that you could get the job done. If you have anything lined up by Friday night, I'll wire you the necessary money to pay for the round trip tickets of the 9 men including yourself.

When you

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When you receive the money by wire, it will be a show of faith indicating that the outfit is going to use your pilots.

[ ] What kind of contract are they going to give us? Will we have anything in writing and if so, will the contract be mailed to us?

[ ] Bob, I don't think a contract before your arrival is required. If you receive the money for their transportation, then the worse that could happen would be for your men to have a free trip to the States and back to Hawaii.

[ ] O.K., sounds good to me. I will be waiting for your call Friday.

[ ]