

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : Docket Number: CR 91-521
4 : CR 92-215
5 Plaintiff, :
6 vs. : Washington, D.C.
7 CLAIR ELROY GEORGE, : July 29, 1992
8 Defendant. : 9:43 a.m.
9 :
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TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ROYCE C. LAMBERTH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE, and a jury

ALAN D. FIERS, GOVERNMENT WITNESS, PREVIOUSLY SWORN

DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continued)

1218

1 so forth. It was -- and there were a lot of issues to be
2 ironed out there, relative to how the various groups would
3 place. We were clearly going to be the implementing agent or
4 agency, but DOD had a role. State Department had a major
5 role, and so there were some bureaucratic relationships to be
6 sorted out.

7 Also to be sorted out in continuing discussion was
8 the care, cleaning, feeding, and maintenance of the
9 resistance forces during the interim period. We go back to
10 the bridge period. That bridge period was still of concern.
11 There still was no one -- there still wasn't a program and
12 NHAO aid was over.

13 And in both of those meetings, the first one in
14 more detail than the latter, Cliver North detailed what he
15 was doing with the resistance. He went down through a list
16 of -- a list of activities.

17 In this particular meeting, the second, he was more
18 cursory, as I recall, in his historic perspective, what he
19 was doing. But he made a very strong suggestion that we --
20 as part of the conversation, that there needed to be a
21 resistance presence in the western part of Nicaragua,
22 particularly in Managua, where the resistance did not
23 operate. And he said, "I can arrange to have General Noriega
24 execute some insurgent or some -- some operations there --
25 sabotage operations in that area. It will cost us about a \$1

1 million. Do we want to do it? And there was significant
2 silence at the table. And then I recall I said, "No. We
3 don't want to do that." And there was not a lot of -- there
4 was some cursory discussion of it, but not a lot, and then
5 the meeting ended.

6 Q. Mr. Fiers, when you say for \$1 million, was that money
7 that was supposed to come from the United States Government,
8 or from some other source?

9 A. No. It was clearly -- the implication was it would come
10 from some other source.

11 Q. Would that be a source controlled by Colonel North, or
12 by someone else?

13 A. -- It was not explicitly by any source, but I think that
14 normally implied that the source was Colonel North, because that
15 was the only person in the room who was known to be in a position
16 to supply the money. I don't know, and I could -- to have that
17 meeting and to supply (particular meaning, the second, he was more
18 likely, he was a (less) likely candidate than anyone else
19 whose name was in the room, and I think that was
20 from the fact that he was the only one in the room who was
21 known to be in a position to supply the money. I think, of
22 course, that the fact that he was in the room and that the CIA
23 was in the room and that he was in the room, and that the CIA
24 was in the room, and that he was in the room, and that the CIA
25 was in the room, and that he was in the room, and that the CIA

1 offices with the Assistant Secretary of State and his deputy,
 2 and I said that was a crazy idea, we didn't want to do it.
 3 We wanted to stay light years away from it. We didn't --
 4 just didn't want to touch that one. And after that, I didn't
 5 mention that to anybody until a year ago.

6 Q. When you say a year ago, is that when you began
 7 cooperating with the United States?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I'd like now to move into October of 1986, and I'll ask
 10 you if you became aware during October of 1986 of the news of
 11 a C-123 aircraft being shot down inside Nicaragua?

12 A. I did.

13 Q. Did you become aware of that on or about October the
 14 5th, 1986?

15 A. I think that that was the date. It was a Monday, early
 16 in the morning, as I recall, and October the 5th -- yes.

17 That's the date. Yes.

18 Q. I'd like to show you what is marked and entered as G-123
 19 (sic). If you could review this, we'll just -- I'll ask you
 20 some questions about this one.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. This is a CIA cable, dated October the 6th, '86,
 23 "Subject: Disappearance of a Southern Front supply
 24 aircraft." It discusses information, apparently, that there
 25 was a possibility that a private benefactor C-123 engaged in