

HOTFOOT #65
INTERVIEW WITH JAY COBURN
FEBRUARY 23, 1982

JC About the bandit situation and they brought a bunch of local people to put on a bus with us to make it appear that we were a typical, they brought this lady and her child and all their garbage this local guy that stayed with us the whole way I might add.

KF Eilsmann.

JC No I don't think.

KF Oh the border guard.

Mr. Fish

JC Somebody when Sculley and [REDACTED] left, they came back with this entourage of locals to put on the bus with us. And one of those guys was armed, he had a pistol in fact stuck in his belt. And he in fact stayed with us the whole way back to Istanbul, one of those guys. I have no idea who the guy was, I never figured it out.

KF Man in a uniform?

JC No, no. Plain clothes. Strictly plain clothes. Never did figure out, maybe he just happened to be on all the same flights with us, you know. The guy had, I got the impression he was one of [REDACTED] contacts of some kind or maybe the other guy's contacts. But he was more of a local eastern Turkish type, that then followed us all the way back.

Mr. Fish

KF But then your impression is that at first you couldn't leave. Problem number one was Paul and Bill didn't have authorization to enter the country. Then Boulware turns up but you still can't

KF leave because you haven't got transport, then the bus turns up
(Cont.) but you still can't leave because ^{Mr. Fish} ██████ is worried about the bandits
and he wants an escort. Then the bus turns up but you still can't
leave because ^{Mr. Fish} ██████ is worried about the bandits and he wants an
escort. Then you finally leave when ^{Mr. Fish} ██████ and Sculley come back
from (Usakaba) with this crowd of people. Now there was a woman
with a child who you thought was there for camouflage. Actually I
think she was the wife of the border guard who (xxxxx) you his
passport. There was some guy with a pistol in his belt, now
Eilsmann who was Boulware's contact had a 45 and he was, he got
on the plane. He went back to Istanbul with you, maybe you're
getting him mixed up.

JC Could be, could be that I've got him mixed up. There were a lot of
people that were with us throughout that bus journey that I wasn't
sure of what was going on. The bus was practically full for Christ
sake, and it was a big bus. I don't know if this was just people
getting free rides, or what ^{Mr. Fish} ██████ was up to okay. I know at one
point the Colonel got extremely upset because there were some
things going on that he didn't know anything about.

KF But do you know why? See he got upset with Eilsmann, he got
upset with this man who's supposed to be in this Turkish CIA and
somebody told me he came close to punching this man. And I
assume it's because Eilsmann was supposed to make it happen, and
he hadn't made it happen. But I can't, I mean why would the
Colonel get mad at Eilsmann, if the problem is that there's no
transport.

JC No, I, I'm not sure what all the existing problems were. I got the
feeling it was a whole comedy of errors, and the Colonel was
holding Boulware responsible. Early in the game, he had a very
strong conversation with Boulware about the fact that he hadn't

JC held up his part of the bargain. And he was sick and tired of it, (Cont.) let's get some results. And I can't remember the exact words, but there was a pretty firm conversation that the Colonel and Ralph had.

KF And what was Ralph's reaction?

JC Was to go try to solve the problem. He blamed alot of it on you know, ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] and ^{Mr. Fish's} [REDACTED] guy and things like that, which they weren't even around at that point okay. But he had alot of verbage and the Colonel really wasn't interested in all of it, he said, well "I don't want to hear about that, you're the one I'm holding responsible for this operation, now let's just make it happen." And it took a long time to make it happen and I you know, we were at that border far too many hours, and the Colonel was not very happy about that. And it really didn't get that much better once the bus got there we thought it would be just get on the bus and leave and you know shit, there was still some delay.

Mr. Fish

KF Well that was when Sculley and [REDACTED] went into the town. Well maybe the truth of it is that it was difficult for everybody at the border to figure out what the problem was, just as it's difficult for me.

JC Most of us were in the dark, most of us were in the dark.

Rashid

KF Will you ask [REDACTED] about that too.

JC Uh-huh.

Rashid

KF Oh, I know. [REDACTED] wanted to be in charge of this overland trip and he said so to Simons, and Simons kind of, Simons (xxx xxx). He certainly gave [REDACTED] ^{Rashid} the impression that he was in charge, but Simons wasn't completely sincere about that.

JC Well we were in a box, the best laid plans had already gone by the wayside and since ██████^{Rashid} was our only, our last hope at that point, I think the Colonel pretty much played it the way he had to play it, and that was ██████^{Rashid} what do you want? In fact he asked Joe and I to even, before he ever talked to ██████^{Rashid}, before ██████^{Rashid} arrived, what are we going to have to do for ██████^{Rashid} to get him to do what we want to do. And in my opinion at that point I thought all we needed to do was offer him a way out of the country, that I thought that was all he was interested in. As it turned out, that wasn't, at least ██████^{Rashid} made it appear that that was not his interest. Now I think we all know at this point that that probably was more of an interest than he let on. At the time that didn't appear to be the case. So how the Colonel played it with ██████^{Rashid} was you know, how do we get this guy as motivated to get us out of the country as we are. And if one of the things is to let him feel like he's in charge, fine.

KF Did he say anything to you, I think Ross just told me, or Merv just told me, that Simons said to you "█████^{Rashid} will be in charge as long as he's doing what I want."

JC Right, that's exactly what he said.

KF Okay, good.

JC That's exactly what he said, because I was somewhat concerned about ██████^{Rashid's} attitude and I expressed that to the Colonel. I said you know I'm not so sure ██████^{Rashid} got the proper frame of mind to really get into this thing. He says, "No, he's fine, he's fine, don't worry about it, he'll be in charge as long as he doesn't fuck it up."

KF Good, okay. Now do you think I ought to discuss ██████^{Seyyed}?

JC No, he's got family still...

KF I was going to ask you his full name but we'll get him his full name, but we'll give him a pen name.

JC He is, you know of all the guys that I'm more worried about from a family, I'm more worried about [REDACTED] ^{Seyyed} than anybody. His father is been in and out of, I think eventually will get executed, that's just my own opinion. Because he's still there and he's still in a, as long as they have executions going on, continuing to go on he's still a target. Even though all his brothers have come out now, he's the last of the (Bazierrie) clan, and his mother's there, one of his sisters.

KF Okay. Wasn't it you who told me that Schwebach was in the process of getting divorced? Somebody else?

JC Poche.

KF It was Poche. Is he (xxxx xxx)? He didn't tell me that bastard. I couldn't remember who, I knew there was one other team was...

JC I didn't even know it at the time, I think I found out later.

KF That's all I got, I must make sure I don't say Schwebach was getting divorced. That's all I got, this time.

JC How's it going.

KF Well...

END OF TAPE #65