

1.3.82.

Dear Ken,

After we talked today I rang JAMES who's going to have another go at Lo Bello. I think, being a journalist, he's much happier now he knows EVERYTHING including the libel angle. He was still in Teheran during your period and his info is also that Lo Bello is "clean" or relatively so. As it happens, he's meeting a lot of old Teheran buddies for dinner tomorrow night. (Yes, he'll have dinner with me!)

Then I flicked through my ex-mercenary notes and proceeded to phone the two firms he gave me as CIA front shops in London who, he said, might lead me to our James L. The first has vanished, although still in the current phone book. The second is almost certainly lying in its back teeth. I've never had such a grilling from a phone receptionist before being allowed to speak to the boss. Who neatly said I must be mixing them up with another firm of similar name. Which neither I nor my ex-mercenary had. But the second firm said the first was almost certainly the sort I was after...So, another blank. Nu, who's the lucky one to land our James, my life?

The Turkish equivalent of the CIA is M.I.T. or MIT (not to be confused with Yiddish). According to the Turkish Press Attache, MIT is so well-known it doesn't need dots in between. It stands for MILLI ISTIHBARAT TESKILATI, and is usually explained as "MIT, the Turkish National Intelligence Organ." (The last his word, not mine.). Normally it has no definite article in front, unlike THE CIA.

Ends that job.

Short letter, this!

La Japonaise

£217

P.S. Hope bill is itemised enough. Expenses include ~~£126~~ for those ads (want the receipts?) and over £50 on phone calls, made and accepted, including Starer in N.Y. etc.

Mr. Ken Follett

Notes

- J. Walter Thompson Co., at 420 Lexington Ave. Also a J. Walter Thompson Entertainment Group, at 1500 Broadway.

- the Wykagyl County Club is located in New Rochelle, a town in Westchester County (Not Long Island). Address: 1195 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York. Telephone: (914)-636-8700. There is a Disbrow Lane and Disbrow Circle in New Rochelle. I found no evidence of a Disborough in New Rochelle, or either spelling on Long Island. Stuyvesant High School is correct (1st Avenue and 15th Street)

- Condotte D'Acqua (not Condotti d'Acqua) is a major construction firm in Rome (source: Italian Trade Commission in N.Y.)

- ROTC or R.O.T.C. stands for Reserve Officers' Training Corps (Not Officers)

- the town in NW Iran near the border is Reza'iyeh,
the town in Turkey near the border is Yüksekova,
(Bartholomew World Travel Map, Iran, 1975, and the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, Gazetteer, no. 19, Iran, agree on these spellings, but do not show Sero.

- The small town of Sero is only 2 km from the border (Iran side). Sero is on the road one would travel between the above two towns. (Road Map of Iran, by National Iranian Oil Co., 1971, and Atlas-i tarikhi-i Iran agree on the spelling.