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August 14, 2000

Honorable Claude M. Hilton
United States District Court for the
Eastern District of Virginia
Alexandria Division
401 Courthouse Square
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE. United States of America v. Carl Blaise Criminal Number 00-218-A
Evaluation of Mental Competency to Stand Trial

Dear Judge Hilton:

Pursuant to the request of William J. Lovett, Special Assistant United States Attorney and upon your order, I have examined Mr. Carl Blaise a 26-year-old, single, white male for the purpose of offering a forensic psychiatric opinion regarding whether there is reasonable cause to believe that presently he may be suffering from a mental disease or defect that renders him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to properly assist in his defense. My examinations of Mr. Blaise were conducted in a secure contact visitation room at the Alexandria Adult Detention Center on July 26, 2000 for a period of approximately two hours, on July 31, 2000 for a period of approximately three-quarters of an hour, and on August 4, 2000 for a period of approximately three-quarters of an hour. Mr. Blaise's counsel, Peter Goldman, was present during the August 4th examination. On each date this examiner advised Mr. Blaise of the absence of any doctor-patient relationship or privilege associated with my examinations and of the absence of confidentiality regarding our discussions.

In addition to my examinations of Mr. Blaise, I have reviewed the following materials provided to me by the United States Attorney:

- 1) Indictment, United States of America v. Carl Blaise.
- 2) Competency Examination Order, United States of America v. Carl Blaise, July 11, 2000.
- 3) Amended Competency Order, United States of America v. Carl Blaise, July 21, 2000.
- 4) Transcript from Arraignment Hearing, United States of America v. Carl Blaise.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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- 5) Transcript from Hearing on Motions, United States of America v. Carl Blaise, July 21, 2000.
- 6) Letter sent by Carl Blaise to the Secret Service in care of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., postmarked April 30, 2000.
- 7) Investigative Reports, United States Secret Service regarding Carl Blaise.
- 8) Psychiatric evaluation and treatment records of Carl Blaise at the South County Mental Health Center, West Palm Beach, Florida, September 11, 1998.
- 9) Psychiatric treatment records, 45th Street Mental Health Clinic, West Palm Beach, Florida, September 1998.
- 10) Involuntary Commitment Papers, Boynton Beach Police Department, Boynton Beach, Florida, September 11, 1998.
- 11) Psychiatric Treatment Records, South County Mental Health Center, Family and Child Developmental Center at Delray.
- 12) Psychiatric assessment records and treatment records, Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute, June 16, 1999 through June 20, 1999.
- 13) Correctional Medical Systems medical history, screening, and medication records covering his current period of incarceration.

In addition to the above referenced materials I have also interviewed:

- 14) Special Agent Brian Sindoni, United States Secret Service.
- 15) Special Assistant United States Attorney William J. Lovett.
- 16) Peter Goldman, Esq.

Based on my examinations, my interviews as noted above, and my detailed review of all the materials that have been made available to me it is my professional opinion, within a reasonable degree of medical and psychiatric certainty, that Mr. Carl Blaise does suffer from a mental disease or defect that renders him incompetent as defined by Title 18 U.S.C. Chapter 313, Section 4241(0). It is further my opinion that at this time Mr. Blaise does not have the capacity to understand the nature and purpose of the proceedings against him nor to assist in his own defense.

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The findings upon which I base these opinions are as follows:

Summary of the Instant Offense

Mr. Blaise is charged with one count of threatening the President of the United States in violation of 18 U.S.C. 871, one count of threatening persons protected by the United States Secret Service in violation of 18 U.S.C. 879, and two counts of mailing threatening communications in violation of 18 U.S.C. 876. It is alleged that on or about April 20, 2000 in Alexandria City, Virginia Mr. Blaise deposited a letter for delivery by the United States Postal Service that was addressed to the Secret Service, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. and contained a threat to take the life of the President of the United States indicating "death of Fascism, death to Amerikkka, the President must die." It is also alleged that the same communication contained the following threat: "If George Bush wins he will be terminated."

Defendant's Description of the Events in Question

When initially questioned about the charges Mr. Blaise stated "...they said I was doing things that was threatening. I know...they said I wrote letters to several governments, the U.S. government, to the Russian government; making threats 'cause I, I was told to 'cause I didn't have a choice. If I don't listen and do things right things'll happen against me." When asked to further explain what he meant Mr. Blaise responded, "Satan and demons." When asked if he was represented by an attorney Mr. Blaise responded, "No, I'm not." With sustained effort, Mr. Blaise provided the following responses to subsequent questioning:

RP: When was the last time you met with an attorney?

CB: I met with a guy who said he was my attorney.

RP: And do you remember his name?

CB: Um, was it Berg, something berg. Gold, Goldberg.

RP: Peter Goldman. Does that name seem familiar?

CB: Yeah, I think I spoke with him.

RP: Ok. Now, again, let's.... when was the last time you spoke with him?

CB: I don't remember, maybe a week ago.

RP: And did he inform you that this exam would be occurring?

CB: Told me. I...told me I'd see someone.

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RP: Ok. Now, again, let's go back to what you've been charged with specifically. Who is it that you allegedly threatened?

CB: Uh, a few people.

RP: Any persons in particular?

CB: The guy that's President, Bush.

RP: Who's President now?

CB: Bush. They say Clinton's the President but he's not because the election's all a fraud. They just make you think that there's a free society and it's not free and they put the election there to make you think that it was a free country. You know, it's not really free. So he's already President, but they still say he's not it's an election and that's all they just want you to think.

RP: So am I correct in understanding that you made threats against President Clinton and....

CB: President Bush...

RP: ...and Mr. Bush? Which Bush?

CB: Um, George W. Bush.

RP: George W. Bush. Ok, and is he related to anybody famous?

CB: Not that I know of.

RP: Do you know who his father is?

CB: Oh, yeah, he's...yeah, he's George Bush, that's right.

RP: And what did he do that was important?

CB: He was, um, he was, um, the ruler of his country _____.

RP: Right. And what's that job called?

CB: President.

RP: Ok. Now, how is it that you allegedly threatened them?

pages 3-8 refer to notes that Dr. Phillips used during his interview with me. RE: comments about Bush, false peace in the middle East, the end of the world.

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CB: Wrote, wrote some letters, drew some pictures, drew some flyers, and passed some flyers out, sending them in the mail to my friends, handing them around.

RP: Why is it that you believe you did these things?

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CB: Told to. I was told that they were no good and I should go ahead and do it country threat, I was, if I do it I was to be See controls and God controls and if I something can have something to

RP: And when did you receive those messages?

CB: Several months back. couple months or so ago, whenever I wrote that letter.

RP: Did you write more than one letter?

CB: I wrote a couple. Wrote one it went to what's his name, um, um, um, hmm, uh, to Bush. I had one to go to, I just never sent it. One other guy, I can't remember his name.

RP: And with each of these letters that you sent the reason you believe you sent them was?

CB: Just a message, the message was they were going to have to

RP: Did you intend to harm them?

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CB: No. I didn't intend to harm them. I was trying to have to make them fear the end was going to come. The end is going to come real soon. Maybe they'll bring it about it's going to be between the President here, President Bush, it's going to be Middle East and the end's going to come. And we're going to see peace and security and then the end's going to come as prophesied. The devil knows his time's up. Know my time's up, now I'm going to be with God and Jesus going to rule over the earth and all mankind, bad mankind is going to be put to an end and I'm going to be with Jesus over this kingdom that's going to be in the earth. And all these governments are going to be gone. No more governments. Jesus is going to rule over. There's going to be peace and security. Let them know that their time's up. They're going to die.

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RP: And do you still feel that way?

CB: Yes, I do.

When questioned specifically about courtroom personnel and his relationship with his attorney, Mr. Blaise provided the following responses:

RP:Have you ever been in court before?

CB: Yes.

RP: Have you ever gone through a proceeding in a courtroom?

CB: I've had, um, proceeding, I think so. I had, uh, ____, I mean, I didn't do anything that I had ____ I did have an attorney and they did everything for me.

RP: Ok, tell me what the role of the judge is in the courtroom.

CB: He's the, he's the one that puts you away. He just ____ government and Satan's system. He just ____ the government, the government is all ruled....this whole world is ruled by the devil. What I'm trying to say is the end is going to come soon, hopefully this year.

RP: What is the job of the judge?

CB: I don't _____. He does whatever is _____.

RP: What is a jury?

CB: They do whatever is _____. They all, they all, they all get together and scheme all together against someone or some _____ or some _____.

RP: When you say they "get together and scheme" does the jury....

CB: The public, the _____ and they all scheme together, you know, _____.

RP: Is the jury for you or against you or ..

CB: _____

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RP: ...are they neutral?

CB: They're _____

RP: They're against you?

CB: They're _____ you and they're working the _____ the _____, the whole, the people whatever they want to do to someone always the jury puts away and they always go by, they always go by - I can't even think, what's the word for it, um, _____, they go by, um... What was the question?

RP: What does the jury do?

CB: The jury do? They go by, um. {long pause}...

RP: Do you know what a prosecutor is?

CB: They work with the...

RP: What's his job? Or her job?

CB: To try to save _____. They work for the public _____ jury, also works in the public. What they tell you it's all, uh, circumstantial and _____ what is and what the public wants, to destroy someone's life.

RP: And is that person for you or against you?

CB: I think they're _____ against you.

RP: The prosecutor?

CB: Yes.

RP: How is that?

CB: _____ the public They work for the public. They're for you to send you somewhere and do something to you or _____ or send you home or send you.... They all conspire, the whole _____ conspires

RP: And what about the defense attorney? What is the defense attorney's role?

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CB: Same. _____. Like me, I don't got no defense attorney. He's says he's my defense attorney, he's in my interest, but he's not. 'Cause he's talking, he's over there talking to the prosecutor and everybody else. They all _____, like I just said. This whole system.

RP: Have you ever been in a courtroom before where you didn't feel the prosecutor and the defense attorney were conspiring with one another?

CB: I felt that. May not say it outright or have chance to say anything.

RP: You have felt that way before?

CB: Yes.

RP: Can you work with your attorney?

CB: No.

RP: Why not?

CB: He's against me.

RP: What is it that makes you believe he is against you?

CB: The things he says. The way he acts.

Past Family History

Mr. Blaise is a poor historian and much of the history that has been recorded – particularly that of the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute, which was the primary reference for this examiner – was provided from available records and family members and its absolute validity is unclear. The record reflects that Mr. Blaise's mother conceived him after being raped. She is reported to have resented his birth and treated him poorly. He has two brothers and two sisters, presumably half-siblings, and is reported to have been raised by his grandmother and aunt in Florida. Mr. Blaise has a very tenuous relationship with his mother.

Mr. Blaise obtained his GED in 1993 having completed the 11th grade and dropping out his senior year. He reported that he quit school because he was having problems with his first wife, however, there is no reason to believe that Mr. Blaise has actually ever been married. He stated that he was an average student and did not get into trouble in school, however, the family reports

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otherwise. Mr. Blaise was in trouble frequently beginning in elementary school. He denies having any learning disabilities or having been enrolled in special classes. It is possible that Mr. Blaise received training in electronics through some trade courses.

Mr. Blaise's work history is unskilled and sporadic. He delivered pizza for Papa John's but was fired after getting into an argument with his boss. He drove a taxicab for approximately one year, which apparently is his longest period of employment, and worked at several computer jobs. Apparently he has good computer programming skills. He also worked for AT&T Wireless Communications and at Motorola. His work history is such that he generally stays at a job for a couple of months and subsequently becomes bored and simply leaves. He has, however, been facile enough to always have another job lined up before he quits.

Marital History

Mr. Blaise reported to other examiners that he has been married twice, however, there is no evidence that this statement is valid. He has reported that he has a five-year-old daughter with his first wife and has no contact with his first wife or daughter, but he refused to discuss these matters with me at examination. According to statements he made last year to examiners in Virginia he met his second wife in Florida. They were quietly married in March, began fighting in June, and she left him in October. Mr. Blaise is very obsessed with his estranged wife, stating that she left him for another woman who practices sorcery. He is also very angry with his wife, his wife's girlfriend, and his mother-in-law. It is believed that Mr. Blaise has pending charges in other jurisdictions related to his threatening and potential assault on this woman/wife.

This belief is concretized by his acknowledged attempts to "get even." This examiner has seen references of reports that he has charges in Florida for stalking and harassing that do connect to this psychosocial history. He has told other examiners that these charges are an effort by his wife and mother-in-law to intimidate him but "it's not going to work." He stated that he wanted them to suffer the way they made him suffer. And he did so by calling them constantly even after they changed their number to an unlisted number, following his girlfriend, "redecorating" (defacing) their house with paint, and ramming a truck into his mother-in-law's car among other behaviors.

History of Psychiatric Illness

Mr. Blaise has a history of psychotic illness going back to early childhood, which is well documented in psychiatric records. His most recent hospitalization occurred at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute in Falls Church, Virginia having been found not competent to stand trial on charges of threatening, stalking, possession of an open container of alcohol, and larceny (having used someone else's credit card to stay in the Hyatt Hotel). It appears that he was successfully restored to competency with the use of antipsychotic medication and

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1.) competency classes and was returned to court, but the outcome of the legal proceedings is unclear to this examiner. His psychiatric history is replete for auditory hallucinations that have told him to kill himself, to kill other people, and frequently involve demonic references. He has a prior history of being treated with Haldol and Prolixin as well as various other antipsychotic medications. In addition to his psychotic disorder he has a history of being diagnosed with personality disorder, not otherwise specified as well as questions of a diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder.

Past Psychiatric History

(false)

2.) Mr. Blaise's family history is positive for a maternal grandfather with schizophrenia and a maternal aunt with bipolar disorder. His father, mother, grandmother, and aunt are all alcohol and/or drug abusers. He has a history of childhood fire setting having reportedly set a scooter on fire that belonged to someone who "caused him trouble." As a child he also attempted to set fire to a house but was unsuccessful. He has a history of putting insects in the microwave to watch them explode. On one occasion he is reported to have poured gasoline on a rat, set it on fire, and watched it squealing and burning to death.

(NOT TRUE)

As previously noted, Mr. Blaise has been hospitalized in Florida at South County Mental Health Center and the 45th Street Mental Health Center (both in West Palm Beach), Boynton Beach, and Delray Beach County. He once attempted suicide by jumping off a building in which injured an ankle and was psychiatrically hospitalized as a result of this attempt. At my examination he seemed to express great pleasure at the chaos created by this event and it is unclear the extent to which this suicide gesture was a bona fide reflection of depression or a manifestation of his severe character pathology and/or active psychosis.

Past Medical History

(I never jumped off a building!
Nor injured an ankle.)

3.) Mr. Blaise's past medical history is significant for a traumatic head injury occurring at age eleven. It is reported that he was fixing an antenna on the roof when he attempted to climb down using a ladder and fell approximately ten feet striking his head on the ground. Records indicate that he lost consciousness and was in a coma for a couple of days. Since that time Mr. Blaise has suffered from epilepsy with petit and grand mal seizures and is currently on phenobarbital for control of that symptomatology. He denies any other significant medical problems

Substance Abuse History

* (I WAS NEVER IN A COMA NOR LOST CONSCIOUSNESS)
ASK my family.

4.) Mr. Blaise has an extensive substance abuse history, having begun drinking alcohol at about age thirteen. He stated that he consumed at least a twelve-pack of beer to a case daily. His last use was prior to incarceration and there is no evidence of any efforts to quit. In addition to alcohol, Mr. Blaise has a history of smoking marijuana on a daily basis when he could and at its peak he smoked five to six joints per day. He has experimented with snorting and injecting cocaine on

* (I only use alcohol, not at age 13.)
(cocaine + heroin abuse is false)

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FALSE
Only
USE
Alcohol

several occasions, but denies the use of crack. He has also used heroin and morphine intravenously. He acknowledges the abuse of Xanax and denies any treatment for substance abuse.

Only
charges in
Florida
ARE TRUE

Past Criminal History

According to prior examiners Mr. Blaise is reported to have outstanding charges in Oklahoma, Maine, and Virginia and is known to have outstanding warrants in Florida for malicious stalking with a request for extradition in Georgia for fraud and in Arlington, Virginia for grand larceny.

Mental Status Examination

Appearance: Mr. Blaise presented in prison attire, disheveled, unkempt, and in poor hygiene.

Behavior: Mr. Blaise's behavior was cooperative, although he failed to maintain good eye contact throughout the interviews. There was overt evidence of increased motor activity, which appeared to be a combination of akathisia (drug induced involuntary muscle movement) and emotional agitation.

Speech: Mr. Blaise's speech was slowed but deliberate when responding to questions and he frequently appeared to be scanning for words in order to respond appropriately.

Thought Processes: Mr. Blaise's thought processes were tangential and sometimes circumstantial. His ability to process information appeared somewhat impaired, which I suspect is a result of the effects of medication.

Thought Content: Mr. Blaise's thought content was delusional.

Perception: Mr. Blaise reports auditory hallucinations of a command variety that he acknowledges responding to in the past. While he denies any overt visual hallucinations, his affect is such that that possibility does indeed exist.

I told Dr Phillips
that I believe
that God + the
Devil both talk
to humans. I NEVER
SAID that I heard
any VOICES.

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Emotional Expression: Mr. Blaise's mood, that is the feeling and tone expressed internally, is unstable and reflective of active psychosis.

Sensorium/Cognitive Functioning: These assessments are useful in differentiating functional (psychiatric disturbances) from organic (medical) illness.

Orientation: Mr. Blaise was oriented to person, to place with mild coaching, but not to time.

Memory: Mr. Blaise's memory is difficult to test because of his active psychosis. He appears to have a reasonable recall of some recent and remote events, however, the extent to which he accurately provides details of past experiences is questionable given his high distractibility and the profound effects of his medication.

Attention and Concentration: Mr. Blaise's difficulty attending and concentrating pose a problem for his clinical examination and a greater problem for his ability to cooperate with counsel.

Abstraction: This examination attempts to determine how well the individual's brain can assess similarities between two items and the meaning of proverbs. Mr. Blaise was unable to abstract in even the most concrete way and responded to my questions simply by saying, "I don't know." It may well be that this is nothing more than a reflection of his inability to attend and concentrate, although his level of intellectual functioning is likely in the average to low-average range.

Judgment: In the psychiatric context, judgment is the awareness of the consequences of intended behavior. An ability to maintain good judgment is dependent on an intact consciousness, orientation, memory, attention, and concentration. During my examination, Mr. Blaise was able to remain conscious and, for the most part, oriented, but he demonstrated unacceptable levels of memory, attention, and concentration. As such, his judgmental capacity at examination would be considered poor and such deficits in judgment would clearly pose a problem in attorney-client collaboration.

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Insight: Psychiatrically, insight is a reflection of the individual's awareness of his usual state of affective functioning. The evidence from my examinations of Mr. Blaise indicates that he is unaware of the extent to which he is impaired and this contributes both to his frustration and what appears at times to be an unwillingness, rather than an inability, to cooperate with questioning.

Psychodynamic Formulation:

In my professional medical judgment, based on my diagnostic examinations and review of the materials outlined above, I believe that Mr. Carl Blaise is a man of low-normal intellectual functioning who possesses concurrent deficits in adaptive functioning that have rendered him less effective in meeting the standards expected for a person his age in such areas as social skills and personal responsibility. Mr. Blaise is a man who poses a significant risk for violent and/or assaultive behavior.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03/11/01 BY 60322
C3
OMITTED
REFERENCE

While he denies any history of assaultive behavior, police reports indicate that he once held a gun to a girlfriend's head, then to her heart, and then between her legs stating that it aroused him but he could not kill her because he loved her.

Mr. Blaise's history is also highly suggestive of profound character pathology, which further complicates his clinical picture. It is difficult in the course of a "jail house" competency evaluation to determine the extent to which his psychotic thought disorder or his character pathology primarily influence the tasks at hand in assessing his competency. Nonetheless, there is no question in this examiner's mind that his psychiatric issues are real and that his presentation at examination confirms an underlying long-standing psychiatric illness that has potentially led to previous compromises in his behavior and judgment and may well have had some bearing on his actions relative to the instant offenses for which he currently stands accused.

Diagnoses

Axis I: Atypical Psychosis; Rule Out Schizoaffective Disorder; Rule Out Bipolar Disorder, Manic; Rule Out Malingering

→ This NEVER OCCURRED - What police report? Where? When?