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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 27, 1972

Mr. Richard Helms, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Helms:

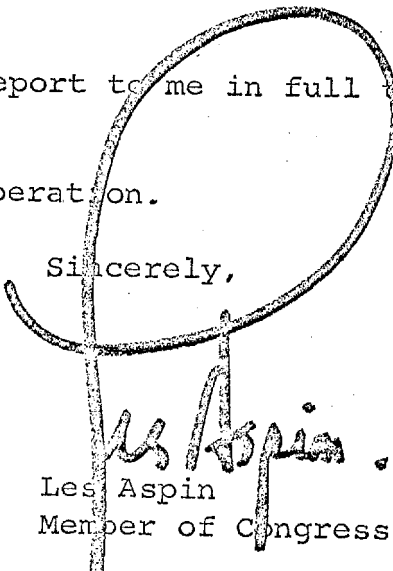
I am publicly releasing today substantial new evidence that indicates that U.S. pilots flying CIA-operated helicopters have been smuggling opium inside Laos. These allegations are contained in a letter and additional information that I have received from Mr. Alfred McCoy, author of a forthcoming book on heroin traffic in Southeast Asia. If these allegations are true, then the CIA is implicated in fostering the drug traffic that ruins the lives of tens of thousands of Americans.

I am writing to you today to request that you thoroughly investigate Mr. McCoy's allegations. Since Mr. McCoy obtained his information last summer, it is imperative to determine whether this kind of drug trafficking is still going on. A principal unanswered question which the CIA must resolve is: "At what level in the CIA were officials aware of this illicit drug traffic?".

I hope that you will report to me in full the results of your investigation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Les Aspin  
Member of Congress

LA:bk

June 27, 1972

though the first Congress of the United States met in New York in 1789, in 1790 it chose Philadelphia as the temporary seat of the new Government when Washington was President.

As students of history know, the Constitution was not a suddenly devised framework of government but the culmination of experience dating back to the Magna Carta of 1215 when 25 barons of England united to force King John to sign and observe it.

The Baronial Order of Magna Carta, composed of men who are lineal descendants of these 25 barons of England, and of which William Hannis Perot of Philadelphia is Marshal, customarily commemorates the signing of the Magna Carta on the Sunday nearest June 15 of each year at historic Christ Church in Philadelphia, the church attended by Washington. Most of the members of the order live in the Philadelphia region; some in the Washington, D.C. area. This order through the years has been a highly effective patriotic group in keeping alive the memories of the Magna Carta as a vital landmark in the development of constitutional liberty.

On June 11, 1972, at this church, the Barons celebrated the 757th anniversary of the enrolling of the Magna Carta in an impressive program led by the rector, the Reverend Ernest A. Harding, D.D., in which a member of the order, the Honorable Maurice H. Thatcher, distinguished former Member of the Congress from Kentucky, and the sole surviving member of the Isthmian Canal Commission that supervised the construction of the Panama Canal, made the address for the occasion and received the Annual Award of the Order, which reads as follows:

The Baronial Order of Magna Carta presents its Magna Carta Day Award to Governor Maurice Hudson Thatcher in recognition of his service to humanity:

Particularly is this made for his championing the Freedom of the Individual, furthering the significant tradition begun in 1215 by the Barons of England.

(Panama Canal Seal.)

(Kentucky Seal.)

(Picture—ship in Panama Canal.)

Christ Church in Philadelphia.

Magna Carta Sunday, June 11, 1972.

WILLIAM HANNIS PEROT,

Marshal.

HENRY PICHON KROGSTAD,

Keeper of the Signet.

(NOTE.—Framed with White House Timber.)

During the program, Governor Thatcher, together with Marshal Perot, former Marshal Charles Edgar Hires, Capt. Miles P. DuVal, Jr., also a member of the order, and Gilbert H. Dehnel of Washington, D.C., sat in the George Washington pew.

So that the indicated address may be suitably recorded in the annals of the Congress for the benefit of present and future readers, I include herewith the indicated address as part of my remarks:

ADDRESS OF MAURICE H. THATCHER

To the Members of the Baronial Order of Magna Carta and their families; friends and neighbors from Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and other points; Rev. Doctor Harding and the membership of this historic Church, I must extend my deepest thanks

and most grateful appreciation for their presence on this occasion.

I also wish to thank with like appreciation, Baron and Mrs. Ross Porter Skillern for the gracious courtesies accorded myself and my traveling companion, Mr. Gilbert Dehnel of Washington, D.C. as guests in their charming home. Also, my thanks to others.

Then, I wish to give assurance of my most grateful acknowledgement for the outstanding honor that was voted to me by the Baronial Order last fall, and now awarded.

When I recall that men of such eminence as Generals MacArthur and Bradley; Chief Justice Bell, and certain outstanding members of the Baronial Order have been recipients of this Award, I am indeed, humbly grateful that I am now thus honored.

I know of no region more historic than that of Philadelphia, and its environs. Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell have their significance and memories.

Great appreciation is due the Welsh and Swedes, as well as the English, Scotch and others. William Penn and his Quakers structured a lasting monument. Here Benjamin Franklin grew into the vast proportions of a practical idealist, statesman, scientist, and successful civic and Revolutionary leader.

This Commonwealth itself is a beautiful domain. Its great rivers, its mountains and valleys—together with its farming areas—present an unexcelled panorama of beauty. Valley Forge and Gettysburg—and the Gettysburg Address—speak for themselves.

Its historic worth is beyond all measurement.

Besides the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania there are three other Commonwealths in our American Union, namely, Massachusetts, Virginia and Kentucky.

My own Commonwealth of Kentucky—with the aid of Daniel Boone, himself a native of Pennsylvania, led the effort for the early settlement of Kentucky; and in time's course, there were born in Kentucky, the respective leaders of the North and South in the Civil War era, Lincoln and Davis.

During my service in the Congress as Representative of the Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky District (1923-33), I had pleasant relationships, on both sides of the aisle, with Pennsylvania members of the House. I make special reference to Doctor Henry W. Temple of the Washington District, J. Banks Kurtz, of the Altoona District, and Thomas Butler of West Chester.

Dr. Temple, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and on special National Park assignments, occupied posts where he was able to serve my efforts—and did serve them—to obtain enactment of Bills I sponsored. They were important measures, and became laws—such as the Acts creating the National Cave Mammoth Park in Kentucky, and the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in the City of Panama, an institution dedicated to research touching the cause and prevention of tropical diseases, both human and veterinary.

The Laboratory, starting with an annual authorization of \$50,000, now has an annual budget of a million dollars; and Congress also has authorized and appropriated several millions for expansion of the Laboratory activities, made necessary by the great functions it has been called upon to serve.

Indeed, its achievements have been of such character as to make of it the outstanding institution of its kind in all the world. Panama is an ideal spot for such activity.

For more than 40 years, I served as the Vice President and General Counsel of the parent institute; and am yet filling the post of General Counsel; and am now the Honorary Life President of the Institute. All these services, I may say, have been rendered without compensation.

Some of you will recall that I was a Member of the Isthmian Canal Commission

under appointment of President Taft, in April 1910. I served until August 1913—all during the construction era.

My identification with the great enterprise throughout my tenure was also that of Civil Governor of the Canal Zone. Colonel William C. Gorgas of Yellow Fever fame, was also a Member of the Commission; and we had our official headquarters in the same building.

I was charged with certain duties which supported him in his important health and sanitary work; and it has given me great pleasure, in and out of Congress, in the years that followed, to have the opportunity to further provide for expansion of tropical research:

The Republic of Panama ceded to our Institute, for the purposes of a laboratory, important lands and buildings in the City of Panama, and we have erected additional structures with Congressional funds.

On an occasion of this character, it is expected, I believe, that the Awardee should submit some remarks dealing with matters of current concern.

This is the Age of Violence. Never in human history has there been such brutal conduct by people in the world, as is now taking place.

Under science the miracle of today becomes the commonplace of tomorrow.

The great achievements of science have been, in large measure, utilized by evil-minded individuals for the most wicked deeds which mankind has ever conceived.

Communism—the deadliest of evils, is busy as never before. We must wisely deal with these conditions, else they will destroy us. For this reason I speak of them.

Assassinations, murders, thefts, robberies, holding for ransom, hi-jacking, guerrilla monstrosities; slaying by wholesale of the innocent and defenseless, and degeneracies, have become the order of the day. No depraved or cruel act is missing.

The news media, in every category, in large measure, are being prostituted; and the old Commandments, containing the essence of life experience; and the noble instructions of the Sermon on the Mount, are being discarded in the world-at-large, and held in contempt.

We canonize our criminals. They get the publicity, the sympathy, and the eulogies, and the acquittals. Our virtues are kept under the bushel, and fall in inspirational value. The red-carpet treatment has all too often been accorded by naive courts, juries, and others charged with the responsibilities affecting the social structure. Shrewd, bold, conscienceless members of my own profession, often go beyond all decent bounds, and defy the courts, and enable the worst criminals to escape the whips of justice, and repeat their offenses.

The TV and radio, and other media with certain exceptions, which so often have instructed and inspired, and with so much potential for good, have all too oft become sewers of filth and degeneracy. In large measure, the children are neglected, and left to establish their own associations and considerations—with the inevitable results.

No further enumeration is required. However, we cannot ignore what is so patent; such things bring disaster. I am a firm believer in the divine mission of Man; but I can have, of course, no conception as to the time he must live and struggle before he scales the peaks of lasting good. He has come far, but yet has far to go. Meantime, we must may seem to be.

Also, it is fortunate that most of our mankind are optimists, rather than pessimists. They are moved by the consideration that the glass is half-full, rather than half empty. Only virtue makes for lasting peace and happiness. War is monstrous, yet, it has always obtained. Thus, the race muddles on.

*Drug file*  
June 27, 1972

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## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

In our own country, we stand in greater need of what we call conscience. Order is Heaven's first law; the Universe, with the infinity of celestial bodies, is regulated by law and maintained in order. The human creature on our own planet—as well as those which may inhabit any like orbs—is endowed with the faculty of reason; with faith, that is to say, reasoned hope; with the belief of the pure in heart that the soul shall have immortal being.

"Hats off to the past, and coats off to the future," must yet be the homely slogan.

I believe that mirth and music are material gifts from Heaven to Man, in compensation for the tragedies of life. Good thought and conduct constitute good morals. Evil is the exact opposite. If we transgress, we are punished, in one way or another.

All the qualities of humanity that are possessed of hope, faith, courage, diligence, reason, love of home and country, vision and noble ideals, must be exercised as indispensable labors in humanity's forward march. Apropos, the spirit of reverence and the Church must perform their necessary roles.

These observations are indeed trite. The multiplication table is trite, but reliance on the mathematics of Newton took the Astronauts to the moon, and thru the voids of space.

Our Baronial Order—whose members are descendants of sureties of A.D. 1215, has great opportunity for noble and patriotic service. It has also great responsibility, and, I believe, is meeting its obligations with fine dispatch.

The Magna Charta is a lengthy instrument of 61 articles. On June 12, 1215, it was adopted to hold in restraint, a cruel, despotic King John of England. Twenty-five sureties were named from the roster of Barons, to require the arbitrary King to pay allegiance to the Great Charter, which relates to benefits and property and other rights to the Barons, as well as the people in general.

Under the benefits conferred by Magna Charta, England, and the course of civil and religious liberty made lasting progress.

The next great document of liberty was the Mayflower Compact, adopted in November 1620 by the Pilgrims in Cape Cod Harbor. It was brief, but of essential character. It provided, in simple words, a comprehensive, organic and formal instrument enabling the establishment of Plimoth Plantation—on the Plymouth Rock site, binding equally on all; and assuring total equality, and to make all needed laws. Under it, the Pilgrims lived and prospered, with complete civil and religious liberty.

This modest compact proved to be the acorn which rooted and grew to the great oak of our Constitutional government, which we must uphold and sustain.

In conclusion, let me say, as did Tiny Tim in the immortal Christmas Story of Dickens, "Lord bless us all, each and everyone!"

## CIA SMUGGLES OPIUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. ASPIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ASPIN. Mr. Speaker, I am releasing today substantial new evidence that indicates U.S. pilots flying CIA operated helicopters have been smuggling opium inside Laos.

What this new evidence indicates is that U.S. pilots using U.S.-owned planes are illegally smuggling opium in Laos, some of which has almost certainly been sold to U.S. GI's in Southeast Asia and some of which has almost certainly been smuggled into illicit U.S. drug markets.

I am releasing today a letter which I have received from Alfred McCoy, au-

thor of a forthcoming book on heroin traffic in Southeast Asia, which details the allegation of United States and CIA complicity in drug traffic. If these allegations are true, then the CIA is implicated in fostering the drug traffic that ruins the lives of tens of thousands of Americans.

According to the information Mr. McCoy has given me, a Laotian district chief and other officials have told him that American helicopters flew Meo officers into Laotian villages where they purchased opium. The opium was also transported out by American pilots and planes to Long Tieng, the CIA headquarters in Northern Laos where it was allegedly refined into morphine and eventually heroin.

The Meo tribesmen, as many of my colleagues know, had been recruited by the CIA and form a mercenary army which fights the Pathet Lao Communist guerrillas. For the Meo, opium is considered an important cash crop.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked CIA Director Richard Helms to thoroughly investigate Mr. McCoy's allegations. Since Mr. McCoy obtained his information late last summer it is imperative to determine whether this kind of drug trafficking is still going on. A principal, unanswered question which the CIA must resolve is "At what level in the CIA were officials aware of this illicit drug traffic?"

It is also becoming increasingly clear, Mr. Speaker, that the Nixon administration is covering up and contradicting itself about the importance of heroin traffic in Southeast Asia. After Mr. McCoy testified before a Senate committee last month the State Department termed his charges about the involvement of Government officials in Southeast Asia as "unsubstantiated." However, the U.S. Army Provost Marshal reported in 1971 that high ranking members of the South Vietnamese Government were in the top "zone" of the four-tiered heroin traffic pyramid.

Mr. McCoy, quite rightly, also disputes the State Department's claim that "Southeast Asia is not a major source of heroin on our market." This statement by the State Department directly contradicts a General Accounting Office report which states that:

The Far East is the second principal source of heroin entering the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative to determine whether the CIA is still involved in opium traffic and who was responsible for the alleged involvement of the CIA with the opium growers of Laos.

My letter to Mr. Helms follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, D.C., June 27, 1972.

MR. RICHARD HELMS,  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. HELMS: I am publicly releasing today substantial new evidence that indicates that U.S. pilots flying CIA-operated helicopters have been smuggling opium inside Laos. These allegations are contained in a letter and additional information that I have received from Mr. Alfred McCoy, author of a forthcoming book on heroin traffic in Southeast Asia. If these allegations are true, then the CIA is implicated in fostering the drug traffic that ruins the lives of tens of thousands of Americans.

I am writing to you today to request that

you thoroughly investigate Mr. McCoy's allegations. Since Mr. McCoy obtained his information last summer, it is imperative to determine whether this kind of drug trafficking is still going on. A principal unanswered question which the CIA must resolve is: "At what level in the CIA were officials aware of this illicit drug traffic?"

I hope that you will report to me in full the results of your investigation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LES ASPIN,  
Member of Congress.

## ROONEY REQUESTS HALF BILLION FOR RELIEF OF FLOOD RAVAGED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROONEY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of probably the most destructive flood in America's history I have today announced that I will request an additional half billion dollars in Federal funds for relief in the five States which have been declared disaster areas by President Nixon.

The \$92.5 million now available to the States in the President's disaster relief fund will not begin to compensate the losses suffered by the five States. If Pennsylvania were to receive the entire \$92.5 million it would cover only about 10 percent of the cost of putting the State back together.

I have introduced legislation to provide relief funds in the amount of one-half billion dollars to the States which have been declared disaster areas by the President. This money would be disbursed by the Office of Emergency Preparedness whose primary function is the administration of the President's disaster relief fund. In past crises involving disaster areas in several States OEP has apportioned financial aid to the States according to the amount of damage sustained in the respective States. This is the only fair and realistic method of tackling the massive cleanup job ahead.

Pennsylvania, hardest hit by the flooding by a wide margin, would receive the lion's share of the supplemental appropriation, and Florida, having the least amount of damage of the five States, would receive the smallest portion. The remaining money would be distributed by OEP to Virginia, Maryland, and New York.

Other Members and I of the Pennsylvania delegation will meet with Governor Shapp today to discuss the crippling effects of the flood.

I hope to explore all avenues of Federal assistance with the Governor and arrive at some concrete goals with regard to the needs of the stricken Pennsylvania communities.

## BEEF PRODUCERS GET SHORT END OF STICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SKUBITZ) is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the action the President took on