

D R A F T

Honorable Benjamin S. Rosenthal
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Consumer and Monetary Affairs
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Rosenthal:

Please refer to your letter to me dated 9 February 1982 concerning your desire to make public certain CIA reports in your possession.

Bill Casey has informed me that he has instructed a senior group of qualified officials within the CIA and Departments of State and Treasury to conduct a second declassification review of the documents at issue after your respective staffs had been unable to agree on the basis of an earlier declassification review. Bill Casey tells me that he has informed you of the results of this second review which identifies those portions of these reports which remain classified.

This is to let you know that I have complete faith in the reliability of the work done by Bill Casey and his people and, therefore, accept their judgment that the material which they have determined to be currently classified may not be disclosed in order to protect the Nation's security.

I object to the disclosure of such information for the reasons stated by the Director of Central Intelligence in his letter to you, dated 11 February. I further certify to you that the disclosure of the information would in my view compromise sources and methods of intelligence gathering and that such injury outweighs the public interest served by the disclosure.

I thank you for your cooperation and patience in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan