



Washington, D.C. 20505

87-49000

Mr. Ben Bowers, Executive Editor  
Roanoke Times & World-News  
201-09 W. Campbell Ave., S.W.  
P.O. Box 2497  
Roanoke, VA 24010

Dear Mr. Bowers:

I take issue with your 13 January 1982 editorial titled "A Lid on Scientific Information?" which inaccurately reported my views.

Your editorial was derived from a speech I gave on 7 January 1982. I would gladly have provided you a copy before you wrote your editorial, had you asked, so you could have reported my views as I presented them. I never came close to saying that scientists should "let U.S. intelligence agents examine their papers before they're published. They should do this voluntarily--or else," as you reported.

As you will see in the enclosed copy of my speech, I proposed as a societal goal a joint search for a system that would preclude harm to the national security without imposing unreasonable restrictions on scientific research, publication, or use of the results. I further proposed that a potential balance might be struck by simply including in the scientific peer review process the question of potential harm to society or the nation. This is a far cry from clamping a lid on scientific information.

I expect you will wish to retract your inaccurate attribution to me, and I urge you to publish a clarification for the benefit of your readership.

Sincerely,

B. R. Inman  
Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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