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Washington, D. C. 20505

13 August 1985

The Honorable Alfonse M. D'Amato, Chairman  
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe  
Congress of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Al,

I tried to get you on the phone to respond to your letter of August 9 about a CIA witness to testify at the August 15 hearing of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

What I told Don Regan over a year ago still holds: we have been unable to pin down sufficient facts to make a solid case that any particular item received from the Soviet Union has been produced by convict, forced or indentured labor. According to our most recent analysis, three percent of total Soviet labor is forced. We get photography which shows prison and labor camps and industrial centers in some proximity to them. This data, together with the testimony of emigres, is not specific enough to tie any particular item to forced labor, although we know in general that the Soviets do have a practice of putting prisoners into particular plants to engage in production there. The evidence is just too sketchy to permit calculation of what proportion of Soviet production of particular items comes from forced labor. As I told Secretary Regan in 1984, with the ratio of forced labor to the total labor force at three percent, production by forced labor does not comprise a large share of overall output and our information from this and emigres is not specific enough to tie a large share to any specific product.

The role of CIA is to provide the information it is able to develop to policymakers and for them to use this information in the formulation of law and policy. Because of my reluctance to put CIA under pressure to prove something with sketchy evidence, and because I have a statutory obligation to protect our information sources from disclosure, I hope you will understand our inability to send a CIA analyst to the hearing in Buffalo.

Yours,



William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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