

Central Intelligence Agency

CHRONO



Washington, D.C. 20505

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misc

OLL 84-3176/1

27 JUN 1984

The Honorable Richard H. Lehman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Lehman:

Thank you for your letter of 13 June and the enclosed 8 May newspaper article from The Christian Science Monitor, forwarded to you by [redacted]. It is the general policy of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to neither confirm nor deny allegations about its activities appearing in the various media. However, the CIA considered the allegations contained in the above article to be so harmful and untrue that a statement was issued as follows:

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"An article in the 8 May Christian Science Monitor makes the outrageous allegation that CIA officials have condoned death squad activities in El Salvador, provided training in torture techniques, and stood by while individuals were tortured. The CIA does not condone, participate in or promote, by instruction or by any other means, murder or the use of torture. Moreover, the U.S. intelligence services are prohibited from engaging in assassination by Presidential Executive Order."

In addition to this denial, which appeared in The Christian Science Monitor the next day, you may be interested in advising your constituent of the findings of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) following its investigation of these charges in response to a "Resolution of Inquiry Concerning the Central Intelligence Agency and Death Squads in El Salvador," introduced by The Honorable James M. Shannon, House Resolution 467 (Report No. 98-709). On 25 April, the HPSCI met in closed session to consider the Resolution. HPSCI reached the following conclusions concerning these death squad allegations in the above report:

"Based on its rigorous review of intelligence documents and records which relate to or make mention of either Colonel Caranza or Mr. D'Aubuisson, the committee found no evidence of any Agency complicity in death squad activities in El Salvador. Nothing in the materials reviewed by the committee suggests any Agency violation of the Executive Order or applicable Agency policies."

"The committee's limited, but exhaustive, review within the confines of House Resolution 467 uncovered no facts which suggest improper Agency relationships."

"The committee considers that its review of applicable documents and files has been thorough."

Since the House Report 98-709 was printed on 25 April, it is regrettable that The Christian Science Monitor news reporter did not, it appears, take into consideration its findings, nor did he attempt to contact the Agency, as most news reporters do, for comment on the allegations before the article was published.

Also, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is holding hearings on this topic now, and the outcome of those hearings will relate to [redacted] concerns. While a large part of the hearings will be in closed session, we do understand the Committee will also make a public report on the issue.

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I am enclosing a copy of our denial printed in The Christian Science Monitor, as well as a copy of a follow-up story therein, which was written as a result of the Agency's protests to The Christian Science Monitor.

I hope these comments will alleviate the concerns expressed by your constituent.

Sincerely,

/s/ Clair E. George

Clair E. George
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

Enclosures

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LD/OLL [redacted] pap (26 June 1984)

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