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CIA-RDP90G01353R001400120003-5

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IMMEDIATE

ROUTING AND

SUBJECT: (Optional) Testimony of CIA Official

Form 3-65 160c

(13)

FROM: John L. Helgerson
Director of Congressional
Affairs

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

30 September 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. Deputy Director of
Central Intelligence

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OCA prepared attached & had Mr. Gates sign (not through ER) They are hand carrying orig. OCA also has orig. of incoming letter from Hughes to DCI

DCI
EXEC
REG

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

30 SEP 1988

OCA 3289-88

The Honorable William J. Hughes
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 27 September 1988 requesting that the Central Intelligence Agency provide an appropriate witness to testify before your Subcommittee on 4 October to discuss allegations of drug trafficking by the Nicaraguan Contras. While I certainly understand the importance of the investigation you are conducting, I do not believe it would be appropriate for a CIA official to testify before your Subcommittee on this subject.

Intelligence information concerning drug trafficking by specific individuals invariably involves sensitive intelligence sources. Testimony regarding the extent of our knowledge regarding such drug trafficking, therefore, could identify intelligence sources and would be inconsistent with the Director's legal responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods.

Even if the hearing were closed to the public and media, I would still have concerns about authorizing an Agency official to testify. We have in the past confined disclosure of highly classified and source-sensitive information to the Intelligence Committees. In this instance, we have briefed the House and Senate Intelligence Committees extensively on our knowledge of

allegations of drug trafficking by members of the Nicaraguan Resistance. I would suggest that you contact the House Intelligence Committee regarding their investigation of this matter.

Should your investigation unearth new information or significant questions that the House Intelligence Committee has not considered, I suggest that you pass that new information to that Committee. We would be happy to appear before the House Intelligence Committee to discuss this issue further if they request us to do so.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert M. Gates

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

D/OCA/JLH, [redacted] 30 Sep 88

STAT

Distribution:

- Orig - addressee
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - EXDIR
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- 1 - OCA/LEG Subj. File
- OCARead

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



Director of Congressional Affairs

OCA 88-3262
30 September 1988

NOTE TO DDCI

Bob:

If possible, I would like to discuss the attached letter with you early this afternoon. My strong inclination is to decline this invitation. I have also sent this letter to the DO.

[Redacted Signature]

John L. Helgerson

Attachment

cc: EXDIR (w/att)
DO (w/att)

Distribution:

- Original - DDCI
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- 1 - OCA Record
- 1 - JLH Chrono

STAT



L-231-1R

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515-6216
Telephone: 202-225-3951

- | | |
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| BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND | |

September 27, 1988

Judge William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

The Subcommittee on Crime of the House Committee on the Judiciary is conducting an important oversight investigation regarding the enforcement of Federal laws concerning narcotics, firearms, and money laundering laws.

I believe the Central Intelligence Agency can provide significant information to assist the Subcommittee in its important work. In this regard I request that the CIA provide an appropriate witness to testify before the Subcommittee at a hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 4, 1988.

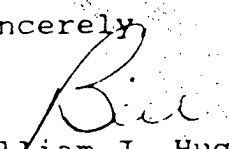
The witness should be prepared to discuss allegations of drug trafficking by the Nicaraguan Contras. A July 1986 State Department report indicates that the U.S. intelligence community had developed information regarding drug trafficking by persons associated with the contras. The witness will be asked to provide substantive information related to that report, and information regarding the narcotics related reports that were passed on to law enforcement.

The Committee on the Judiciary has legislative and oversight responsibility for Federal narcotics laws and their enforcement. The Agency on a number of occasions has stated to the Congress that it promptly turned over to the Justice Department information relative to drug trafficking connected to the Nicaraguan conflict. It is concerning these law enforcement matters that we are asking the CIA to provide information to this Subcommittee.

Judge Webster, September 27, 1988, Page 2

Any questions regarding this matter can be directed to Subcommittee Counsel Hayden Gregory or Investigator Jim Dahl at 225-1695. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


William J. Hughes
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime

WJH:jd

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

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SUSPENSE _____

Date

Remarks

D/OCA will prepare a response for DDCI signature.



1-731-R

ER 88-3673X

STAT

Executive Secretary

3 Oct '88

Date

3637 (10-81)

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From: John L. Helgerson

SEP 1988

We plan to prepare an
answer for ~~your~~ signature.

We plan to prepare an
answer for my signature.

No answer expected or required

John, I prefer to _____

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2013/01/30 : CIA-RDP90G01353R001400120003-5

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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SUSPENSE _____

Date

Remarks

D/OCA will prepare a response for DDCI signature.

ER 88-3673X

Executive Secretary

3 Oct '88

Date

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3637 (10-81)

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Washington D C 20505

OCA 88-0516

23 FEB 1988

The Honorable William J. Hughes
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director has asked me to respond to your 11 February 1988 letter requesting certain records in connection with your investigation of the enforcement of Federal laws regarding narcotics, firearms and money laundering.

The records that you have requested all relate to matters that have been investigated by the House and Senate Iran/Contra Committees. All CIA documents relevant to these matters have already been made available to the select committees. Accordingly, I believe that the most expeditious manner to proceed would be for you to obtain relevant CIA documents directly from the House select committee. It is our understanding that these documents have been indexed by the select committee and thus should be readily retrievable from the record repository of the Committee. The documents that originated from CIA will be readily identifiable because they have been all copied on paper that identifies the CIA as the originator of the document.

I want to emphasize that almost all the CIA documents provided to the select committee in their full text are classified. It will, therefore, be necessary to ensure that not only your staff have the appropriate clearance to review the documents, but that the documents are stored in a facility that meets the security standards for protection of this information. We are particularly concerned about Top Secret documents, which must be stored in areas that meet stringent security requirements. I would urge that your staff review this Top Secret material in the offices of the select committee. We are prepared to assist your staff in ensuring that appropriate security standards are adhered to in handling the CIA documents.

I appreciate your offer for the staff of the subcommittee to meet with us to discuss the necessary restrictions against dissemination of sensitive intelligence materials. I suggest

L-231-1R

that before such a meeting is arranged, your staff review the relevant documents in the possession of the select committee and identify those documents that may need to be disseminated beyond those cleared individuals on the staff of your Committee.

Finally, I note that your letter also requests information on records in the possession of the National Security Agency "or any other United States intelligence operation or bureau." Since each Federal agency had separate responsibilities for providing pertinent information to the Iran/Contra investigating committees, I suggest that you communicate directly with NSA and these other agencies on this issue.

If you have any further questions on these matters your staff may contact my Deputy, [redacted] who served as the Agency's focal point with the House and Senate Iran/Contra Committees.

[redacted] telephone number is: [redacted]

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Sincerely,

[redacted signature box]

STAT

John L. Helgerson
Director of Congressional Affairs

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Original - Addressee

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1 - OCA/Leg/Subject File: Select Committee(s)

OCA/Leg, [redacted] (22 February 1988)

STAT

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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary
 Washington, DC 20515-6216
 Telephone: 202-225-3951

February 11, 1988

Judge William H. Webster
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

Pursuant to Article I of the Constitution of the United States and the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Committee on the Judiciary is conducting an oversight investigation of the enforcement of Federal laws regarding narcotics, firearms and money laundering.

On or about March 31, 1986, Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Jeffrey Feldman, met in the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica with U.S. Ambassador Lewis Tambs and CIA Chief of Station Joseph Fernandez concerning an investigation Mr. Feldman was conducting in Costa Rica in which he discussed the alleged role of Lt. Col. Oliver North and his associate Robert Owen, among others, in providing arms to the Nicaraguan resistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Feldman was accompanied by two special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, George Kiszynski and Kevin Currier. It has been alleged that participants in that arms supply operation have had some form of complicity with the traffic in illegal narcotics, money laundering or violations of Federal firearms and export control laws. The notebooks of Lt. Col. North indicate that on that day Mr. Fernandez called him to report on this investigation into the Contra supply network.

To carry out its investigation, the Subcommittee needs from the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, or any other United States intelligence operation or bureau, a copy of all records and communications they have concerning this meeting and the subjects discussed at that meeting: an alleged plot to assassinate Ambassador Tambs; an alleged plot to blow up the U.S. Embassy in San Jose; and the activities of Lt. Col. Oliver North and Robert Owen and their associates in providing lethal assistance to Nicaraguan Contras after passage of the

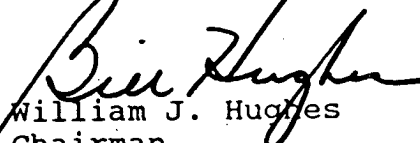
Judge Webster, February 11, 1988, page 2

Boland Amendment. In particular, the Subcommittee would like a copy of any communications, or notes on such communications, from Ambassador Tambs, Chief of Station Joseph Fernandez, or any one else in Costa Rica to any personnel of the CIA and any other U.S. intelligence operatives relating to the investigation being conducted by Messrs. Feldman, Kiszynski and Currier.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have provided any of these documents to the House Select Committee to Investigate Covert Arms Transactions With Iran, please let me know just which documents you provided so that I may obtain them from that Committee without troubling you further.

The staff of the Subcommittee on Crime, which has been issued top secret clearances, is prepared to meet with your General Counsel to discuss the necessary restrictions against disseminating sensitive intelligence materials. I wish to stress that the Subcommittee on Crime places the highest priority on protecting the integrity and confidentiality of intelligence sources, procedures and operations, law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and protecting the security and confidentiality of law enforcement data.

Sincerely yours,



William J. Hughes
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime

WJH:ees

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1	DCI		X		
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22	ER		X		
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Remarks D/OCA will respond over his signature.

STAT

[]
 Executive Secretary
 17 Feb 88

STAT

Date

From: John Helgerson

16 FEB 1988

We plan to prepare an answer for your signature.

We plan to prepare an answer for my signature.

No answer expected or required

John, I prefer to _____

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