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February 21, 1987

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Hon. Robert M. Gates  
Acting Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Gates:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I am sending today to Senator Arlen Specter. You will recognize it as an attempt to respond to his statement to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence earlier this week. I am sending similar letters to Committee Chairman Boren, Vice Chairman Cohen, and several members of the Committee. Addressed individually, the letters begin with the second sentence of the letter to Senator Specter. I hope they will be helpful.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.  
(703) 482-7676

George V. Lauder  
Director, Public Affairs

28 July 1986

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[Redacted]  
Dear [Redacted]

I am enclosing a copy of the Jordan map recently published by the Agency. It will soon be available to the public through the Government Printing Office. It contains the corrections you drew to the attention of the State Department and the Agency.

You probably have noted that the 1986 edition of THE WORLD FACTBOOK, published last month, also reflects the wording according to the State Department's revised guidelines.

Again we thank you for your interest in ensuring the accuracy of U.S. Government publications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George V. Lauder".

George V. Lauder  
Director, Public Affairs Office

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February 21, 1987

Hon. Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Room 331  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

You are quoted as saying that you will weigh heavily the performance of Robert M. Gates when Deputy Director in deciding how to vote on his confirmation as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. May I relate to you an experience with Mr. Gates when he was Chairman of the National Intelligence Council and Deputy Director of the CIA. I believe the action he took on that occasion indicates the kind of person he is and may provide a clue to how he will perform as Director.

I found that inherent to Mr. Gates' nature is a readiness to listen to an ordinary citizen; that to get his attention you need not be a v.i.p. or the representative of an important organization. Also, he moved quickly when he learned that the CIA or its personnel might have been derelict in carrying out their responsibilities.

The issue which brought the revealing experience with Mr. Gates is secondary to his response but a brief description of it may help to appreciate what happened. For some years I have been engaged in what is now a largely successful effort to obtain the correction of erroneous and misleading official maps and written descriptions of the Middle East, in particular the so-called "West Bank," the 2,200 square miles on the west bank of the Jordan River and the west bank of the Dead Sea.

Since 1949 the Department of State, which determines US mapping policy, required that the "West Bank" be shown as an inherent part of the Kingdom of Jordan. This was done even though the United States never recognized Jordan's sovereignty over the area, and even though Jordan had been evicted from the area in the war of 1967.

The flawed government example was emulated by publishers of encyclopedias, textbooks, and other reference works, and by the media. The result was that our "truth" about the area from every

trusted source of information was really false. This influenced the perceptions of policymaker and member of the general public alike. This had consequences for our judgement of the rights and wrongs of the actions taken in the area and for our foreign policy.

A great deal of effort, in which I was aided by many others, produced an agreement by the State Department to correct the maps. The Department issued a directive dated September 30, 1982. This ordered changes in new maps of the area. However, the State Department dragged its feet in implementing the directive. As a result, the Central Intelligence Agency, the producer of the large official maps in color, had no plans to correct the most important map of Jordan.

After many months of unsuccessful efforts to get the State Department to act, I saw an article by Mr. Gates in THE WASHINGTON POST'S Outlook section on Sunday, December 12, 1984 entitled, "Is the CIA's Analysis Any Good?" He described the return to excellence in the CIA's analytical research, intelligence analysis, and accuracy of information.

Toward the end of December I picked up the telephone, dialed the CIA's number, and asked for Mr. Gates. He returned my call several days later when he got back to his office. This was in the afternoon of Monday, December 31, 1984. He didn't know me or my name. He knew only that I had said that I had something of importance for him. When we talked I explained that his ideals for the CIA, described in his Outlook article, were not being lived up to at the Agency in an important area, that I could document this and would be willing to do so.

The next day was Tuesday, January 1, 1985, New Year's Day. Wednesday morning George V. Lauder, the CIA's Director of Public Affairs, telephoned. Mr. Gates had asked him to meet with me, and this we did that afternoon. Present at our meeting at CIA headquarters was a member of the CIA Inspector General's staff.

The conversation with Mr. Gates and what followed eventually produced happy results. The CIA issued a vastly more accurate map of Jordan and sent me an early copy. This was accompanied by a gracious letter signed by Mr. Lauder and dated July 28, 1986. A copy of the letter is attached.

I hope this report of my experience with Mr. Gates will prove helpful. To me he is an executive who moves quickly to ascertain

the possibility of wrongdoing by his Agency or its personnel. To me Mr. Gates not only writes about intellectual integrity, he practices it.

Sincerely,



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