

OCA Records

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 97-1005
9 January 1998

The Honorable Paul Wellstone
United States Senate
2550 University Avenue, West
Court International Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114-1025

Attention: Paul Audette

Dear Senator Wellstone:

Mr. Tenet has asked me to respond to your letter of December 12, 1997 on behalf of your constituent, [redacted]. [redacted] wrote to you regarding redacted Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) documents concerning the disappearance of Father James Carney, and the location of his remains in Honduras.

As you may be aware, President Clinton has stated his commitment to ensure that, to the fullest extent possible, all appropriate information on the fate of Father James Carney is declassified, bearing in mind the complexity and sensitivity of documents in question. While it may appear from the information provided in [redacted] letter that information regarding Father Carney has been deleted, I can assure you that great care is being taken in our review process to ensure that all substantive information bearing on Father Carney's fate is being declassified.

Unfortunately, the documents in our files provide no conclusive evidence about the fate of Father Carney. In fact, the information available to us is now over a decade old, contradictory, and of questionable reliability, thus giving us no basis on which to identify with any degree of assurance either the circumstances or location of Father Carney's death, nor the present whereabouts of his remains.

Throughout our exhaustive searches, reviews, and subsequent releases of information concerning Father Carney, we have been in periodic contact with the Carney family. In an effort to share to the fullest extent possible all available information on the Father Carney case, the CIA has declassified and released large quantities of documents related to this matter. It was necessary to make limited redactions to the released documents in order to

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protect intelligence sources and methods. However, I can assure you that the passages that were redacted contained no information that would shed further light on what happened.

I trust this information will be helpful to you in responding to [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

John H. Moseman
Director of Congressional Affairs