



Washington, D.C. 20505

(b) (3)  
(b) (6)

*PM Cowan  
Chiron*

[redacted]  
28 January 1998

The Honorable John R. Kasich  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2700 East Dublin-Granville Road  
Suite 525  
Columbus, Ohio 43231

Attention: Mr. Ralph Sandine

Dear Mr. Kasich:

This is in response to your letter of December 8, 1998 that forwarded correspondence from your constituent, [redacted] requested your assistance in acquiring information regarding the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) video entitled, "TWA Flight 800: What Did The Eyewitnesses See?"

This video, produced by the CIA and distributed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to the press, explains in detail how CIA analysts used the available data to conclude that the so-called "missile sightings" took place after the aircraft had already exploded. The analysis depicted in the video was based on 224 eyewitness reports (provided by the FBI); some air traffic control radar data and limited information from the aircraft's cockpit voice recorder (provided by the National Transportation Safety Board, via the FBI); and infrared data detected by a US satellite. No satellite imagery of the disaster exists.

The possibility existed that the crash of TWA Flight 800 was caused by foreign terrorism, especially considering speculation that a bomb or missile could have been involved. The CIA, in full accordance with the National Security Act of 1947 and Executive Order 12333, responded immediately to a request from the FBI for assistance. This assistance included support from CIA analysts who monitor and assess foreign weapons threats to US national security. CIA's assistance to the FBI concerning the Flight 800 incident is ongoing.

The CIA's work depicted in the video involved only unclassified information. Similar assistance has been provided by the CIA on other air disasters; however, since

The Honorable John R. Kasich

classified sources were used, the details of the Agency's involvement in these other instances cannot be released to the public.

I trust this information will be helpful in responding to

Sincerely,

*John* John H. Moseman  
Director of Congressional Affairs