



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 482-7676

23 October 1986

5
Mr. Dusko Doder
THE WASHINGTON POST
1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Mr. Doder:

Mr. Casey asked me to respond for him to your letter of 16 October. He rarely deals directly with journalists and prefers that you communicate solely with my office. You may not be aware that Agency regulations require all inquiries from the media be referred to my office.

As I mentioned to you on the phone, my office takes calls from a great number and variety of journalists and media outlets. We respond on those subjects we can discuss. You are welcome to call too.

I commiserate with you on your assignment and regret that there is little we can do to help you. As former Director Dick Helms once said: CIA "wasn't established to keep in touch with the public...its job is to advise the President and the National Security Council, stay out of the limelight and keep quiet." Since practically everything we do is classified and we cannot discuss or comment on classified matters, this remains good advice and we follow it.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of George V. Lauder in cursive script.

George V. Lauder

A Director, Public Affairs