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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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March 26, 1992

Hon. Robert M. Gates  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Gates:

A week ago, I wrote to President Bush requesting that the United States government release its files on Nazi war criminals to the public. I am writing to you as well to request the release of the Central Intelligence Agency's files.

As a result of previous investigations, information has come to light that Nazi war criminals were employed and protected by agencies of our government, including the very agencies that were responsible for apprehending them. We know that some of these individuals came to this country with the assistance of our government.

The alleged war criminals who were employed and or protected by our government include: Klaus Barbie, the infamous "Butcher of Lyon," Otto Von Bolschwing, Eichmann's mentor on the "Jewish question" who organized a pogrom in Bucharest, Mykola Lebed, the head of a security force that massacred Jews in Lvov, and Arthur Rudolph, Operations Director of a slave labor camp where 20,000 people were worked to death.

In the process of employing these people and bringing them to safe haven in the United States and elsewhere, laws were broken, lies were told, and the President, Congress, other government agencies and the public were deceived. But we still don't know the whole story. Forty seven years after the end of World War II, it is time for the American people to find out the truth.

The files in question could shed light on such questions as: How many Nazi war criminals entered the United States? To what extent did government agencies help Nazi war criminals elude

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justice? Did Nazi war criminals come to the United States by slipping through cracks or did our government know of their backgrounds? Who made the decisions to admit war criminals? Was there a general policy to ignore the Nazi backgrounds of people who worked for the U.S. government or entered the country?

Why were people with Nazi backgrounds hired? Were Nazi scientists employed by the government really essential or could American scientists have done the job just as well? To what extent were the President, Congress, other governmental agencies and the public deceived? What impact on policy did people with Nazi backgrounds working for the government have? Why were there virtually no attempts to prevent Nazi war criminals from entering the country or to deport those who were already here prior to the 1970's? And why have these files been kept secret for so long?

As you know, Argentina, a country which harbored some of the most infamous Nazi war criminals, recently released its files to the public. If Argentina can come to grips with its past, certainly the United States government can do the same.

Forty seven years have gone by. The Cold War is over. There is no reason to keep these files secret any longer.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Holtzman  
Comptroller

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