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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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6 September 1996

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Ros-Lehtinen:

Thank you for your letter of 6 July 1996 to the Director of Central Intelligence. The Director asked that I respond to your concern regarding the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue aircraft on 24 February 1996.

Your letter raises questions regarding appropriate U.S. responses to Cuban air activity. Specifically, you question the response by the South East Air Defense Sector Headquarters at Tyndall Air Force Base to Customs department radar information regarding the flight activities of the Cuban MIGs. I can assure you that the Intelligence Community has made every effort to help determine the facts surrounding this terrible act. However, since your specific request pertains to policy regarding U.S. response to threats, I believe it would be more appropriately answered by the Department of Defense. I understand that you have sent a similar letter to Secretary Perry, and I am certain that your concerns will be addressed in his reply.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of the Director of Congressional Affairs.

John H. Moser
Director of Congressional Affairs

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