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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

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July 6, 1996

The Honorable John Deutch
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D C. 20505

Dear Mr. Deutch:

I urge you to launch an immediate investigation into deeply disturbing reports published in the press that the South East Air Defense Sector headquarters at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida was warned by a Customs official in Riverside, California that two unidentified aircraft were speeding toward the Brothers to the Rescue aircraft, which on the afternoon of February 24th were conducting a humanitarian mission over international waters, but which were shot down, causing the death of American citizens. This new information, combined with last week's revelations that the Cuban MIG's flew close to 25 miles off the shores of the United States pursuing the third Brother to the Rescue aircraft, raises serious question of why no action was taken to warn the Cuban MIG's to back off and no US military aircraft was launched to prevent this tragedy from occurring.

This new information was released during the appeals hearing sought by Brothers to the Rescue President Jose Basulto, before a National Transportation Safety Board judge, on the revocation of his pilot license. The community of South Florida is extremely concerned on what appears to be an incident which was detected.

Although it is too late to bring back those four young men who were indiscriminately murdered that afternoon, I believe it is important that an investigation be immediately conducted to determine if any negligence occurred that day to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

Your immediate attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL/jmc



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