

MENA TEAM



**SUBJECT: VIDEO TAPE REVIEW: NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT NETWORK,
AMERICAN INVESTIGATOR, "MENA, ARKANSAS UNDER
INVESTIGATION," AIRED FEB 8, 1996**

FROM: _____

DATE: FEB 22, 1996 _____ **COMMENTS: (Please DATE Comments)**

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APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
23-Sep-2009

(Record copy)

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February 22, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Video Tape Review: National Empowerment Network, American Investigator, "Mena, Arkansas Under Investigation," aired February 8, 1996.

1. On February 21, 1996, the undersigned reviewed the above video tape. The main thrust of the video related to suspicious activities at the Mena, Arkansas airport in the 1980s time frame. Allegations included drug activities, arms smuggling and money laundering. Possible connections to CIA and government officials were explored. Particular emphasis was placed on the activities of deceased drug smuggler Barry Seal. Additional focus was placed on the activities of wealthy Arkansas businessman Don Lasater and his possible ties with Seal and high ranking government officials. The role of Rich Mountain Aviation also received significant attention.

2. Interviewees for the program included Congressman Leach, Fred Hampton of Rich Mountain Aviation, and former Arkansas law enforcement officers L.D. Brown and Russell Welch. References were made to a book by Terry Reed, entitled "Compromised," which reportedly relates to the topic at hand. The credibility of this book was questioned somewhat, however, it may be useful in terms of background information and leads. Accordingly, an attempt will be made to obtain this book through the library.

3. Overall, the video provided useful background information on the Mena allegations and featured some of the key participants.

