

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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The Honorable Dave Durenberger  
Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Inasmuch as I had less than 24 hours to prepare for my testimony and was not a direct participant in the events described, I now find that I was inadequately informed at the time of my testimony about the Furmark-Casey contacts. In helping to prepare Mr. Casey's testimony for this week, I have learned that when Mr. Furmark spoke to the DCI on 7 October, he made no mention of the possibility of any Iranian funds going to the Contras. He spoke only of dissatisfied investors, the possibility that the investors had been speaking to U.S. Senators, and a suggestion on how to resolve the issue. This is summarized in a DCI memorandum of 8 October.

It was on 22 October, in discussions with Mr. Charles Allen in New York, that Mr. Furmark said for the first time that Ghobanifar -- the Iranian intermediary and arms merchant -- had told him that he (Ghobanifar) believed that some of the money had been "earmarked for Central America." The Committee has the unsigned, undated memorandum detailing this conversation of 22 October between Allen, Cave and Furmark.

I hope this clarification is useful to the Committee. (U)

Robert M. Gates