



THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

4 February 2003  
DAC-00586-03

Mr. Sean O'Keefe  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Sean:

I write on behalf of the men and women of the United States Intelligence Community to express our deep condolences at the tragic loss of the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia. We add our voices to the countless millions throughout the world touched by the sacrifice of these seven bold astronauts.

Of many backgrounds, they shared a commitment to the most noble of causes. From space, with the power of peaceful science, they sought to enrich and improve life here on Earth. With their skill, they worked to expand—for the benefit of all humanity—understanding of our planet and its place in the universe.

They knew the risk, yet went forward to meet it. The greatest feats of history—feats of progress and discovery—come on the shoulders of the daring, with the spirit of the brave.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire NASA family, both during this time of great sadness and as you once again take up your inspiring mission of exploration and knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George J. Tenet". The signature is stylized and cursive.

George J. Tenet