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*24 June 69*

**Mrs. William H. Bates  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515**

**My dear Mrs. Bates:**

The sense of loss which those of us who have known and admired Bill here in Washington share with you is not the kind of thing that can easily be put into words. But I do very much want you to know that Bill had, and always will have, a very special place in the hearts of those of us in CIA. His wisdom, integrity, understanding and goodwill are certain to be sorely missed in the days ahead, but you can be certain that they will not be forgotten by those who have been privileged to know and work with him in connection with some of the most critical issues of our time. I trust that the high standards of public office he set will serve as an example to those who follow.

**Sincerely,**

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**Richard Helms  
Director**

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