

82-3019/1

MEMORADUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:

[REDACTED]

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Chief, International Activities Division

SUBJECT:

IAD/[REDACTED] Briefing for SSCI Aides on May 1981  
Assassination Attempt Against the Pope

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1. On 14 September, a member of IAD/[REDACTED] briefed two staff aides of Senator Richard Lugar of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence concerning alleged Soviet/Bulgarian complicity in the May 1981 assassination attempt against the Pope. This briefing requirement had been prompted by Claire Sterling's article in the September edition of Reader's Digest entitled "The Plot to Murder the Pope". (See previous IAD/[REDACTED] memo dated 3 September 1982 on this same subject.)

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3. In anticipation of high-level queries from various U.S. officials following NBC's upcoming special on the Soviet/Bulgarian connection, IAD/[REDACTED] sent a cable to Stations in Europe asking for a status report and any new information bearing on the subject. As of 14 September, however, CIA has no information to support the thesis of the Soviet/Bulgarian role in the attempt against the Pope.

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S E C R E T

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4. NOTE: Mr. Andre said that Senator Lugar was scheduled for a breakfast meeting with the DCI on 16 September and that this subject would be discussed at that time. Mr. Andre thought that Senator Lugar might suggest to the DCI that more resources of CIA might be applied to the resolution of the possible Soviet/Bulgarian sponsorship of the attempt against the Pope.

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