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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OEXA 83-0175/P

25 APR 1983

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your note of 4 April. I hope that the 6 April briefing you received from John McMahon on the subject of the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II, citing recent intelligence reporting, was useful.

We have responded to both written and telephonic inquiries from Members of Congress (Senators Gordon Humphrey and Alfonse D'Amato; Congressmen Larry McDonald, Don Ritter and Bill Nichols, among others) regarding the alleged KGB/Bulgarian involvement in this matter. Each response was tailored to the specific concerns set forth in the individual query, but for the most part, the response has been consistent with the enclosed draft.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Enclosure

Honorable William P. Clark
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 11, 1984

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The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

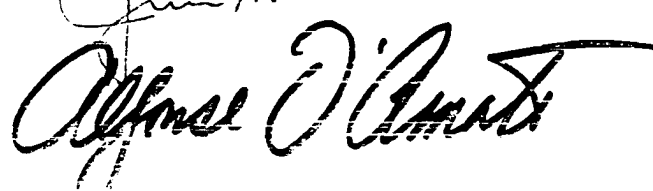
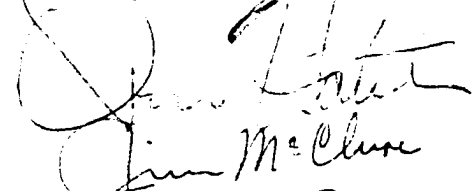
Dear Mr. President:

Some of us wrote to you on January 31, 1983 requesting a report on the CIA's behavior in uncovering or suppressing evidence of the KGB's role in the plot to assassinate Pope John Paul in June 1981. These requests for information on the KGB's role in the Papal assassination plot have been ignored by the CIA. Meanwhile, two authoritative books on the subject have been published, one by Claire Sterling entitled The Day of the Assassins, and another by Paul Henze entitled The Plot to Kill the Pope. We suspect that the CIA has tried to downplay the KGB's role in this plot, apparently for political reasons--a fear of criticizing the Soviet Union. Both of the above books have reached similar conclusions about the CIA's reluctance to report the KGB's role in the Papal assassination plot.

We respectfully request that we be provided with an authoritative response to our original letters. Perhaps you could arrange a briefing for us and some of our cleared staff. This issue could become politically sensitive in the 1984 campaign. An amendment to the FY 1985 Intelligence Authorization Bill calling for a report on this matter may be helpful to the Administration.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



CC: Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
Director, ACDA
Chairman, JCS
Director, CIA

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

STAT

OEXA 83-0175/P

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/s/ Bill

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Enclosure

Honorable William P. Clark
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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LLD [redacted] (12 April 1983)
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I-111

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

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3	EXDIR		X		
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5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
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11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/EEO				
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16	C/PAD/OEA				
17	SA/IA				
18	AO/DCI				
19	C/IPD/OIS				
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		SUSPENSE	11 April		
			Date		

Remarks:

Please prepare response for DCI's signature.

Executive Secretary

5 April 83

Date

2627 (110-81)

STAT

Executive Registry

83-1886

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 4, 1983

Dear Bill:

We continue to receive Congressional correspondence on the alleged KGB involvement in the attempted assassination of the Pope -- examples are enclosed. The White House has given interim responses to these, but I believe that because of continuing interest, we will need a more substantive response. Could you have your staff draft a substantive input which we could include in our response to these and future inquiries.

For my part, I plan to stress the President's policy of refraining from comment while giving full support to the Italian investigation.

Sincerely,



William P. Clark

Enclosures (3)

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505



I-111

GORDON J. HUMPHREY
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Approved For Release 2009/09/04 : CIA-RDP87M00539R001902980022-6

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CHAIRMAN: SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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United States Senate

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LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN: SUBCOMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM
AND DRUG ABUSE

March 7, 1983

129590

Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns and the concerns of constituents that the Central Intelligence Agency is not conducting an official independent investigation into the plot to kill the Pope.

To date, official CIA policy has been that investigation of the assassination attempt is an internal affair of the Italian government and, therefore, is best handled by Italian authorities. Although the CIA has indicated willingness to provide Italian authorities with pertinent information, there seems to be growing evidence that the CIA is ignoring and even attempting to discourage further investigation of this matter.

Considering the strong likelihood of Soviet involvement in this plot, I do not believe the United States should be holding back its resources in conducting a thorough and independent investigation. The United States should utilize every available avenue to identify those parties that might be involved in this attempt on the Pope's life.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Gordon J. Humphrey, USS

GJH:jko

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 31, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

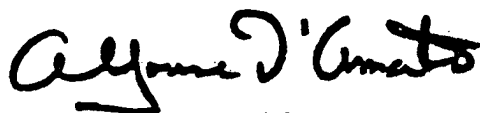
On January 25, 1983, NBC television showed a documentary narrated by Marvin Kalb about Soviet involvement in the plot to assassinate the Pope. It was a very good program, which clearly established the evidence linking the Soviet KGB to the plot against the Pope. One statement at the end of the show by Mr. Kalb caught our attention in particular.

Kalb stated that CIA aides in Rome were trying to discourage journalists from pursuing promising leads on the KGB's role in the assassination plot. If accurately reported, the CIA's behavior in this case is very puzzling.

Mr. President, this plot has enormous implications for U.S.-Soviet relations and the prospects for arms control negotiations.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that this be investigated. Specifically, we would appreciate having a report about the CIA's behavior in uncovering or suppressing evidence of the KGB's role in the plot. Further, we hope your Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board will also look into this problem. A Senate Intelligence Committee hearing may also be appropriate.

Respectfully yours,



Alfonse M. D'Amato
United States Senator



Steve Symms
United States Senator

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
103 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2931

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 27, 1983

301 FEDERAL BUILDING
ROME, GEORGIA 30181
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POST OFFICE BUILDING
ROSSVILLE, GEORGIA 30741
TELEPHONE: (404) 866-2222

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ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
SEAPOWER AND STRATEGIC
AND CRITICAL MATERIALS

121797

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Shocking evidence continues to build up that the Soviet KGB was behind the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul a year and a half ago. Initial reports of the KGB's involvement appeared first in the newsletter of one of my part-time staff members and has since been confirmed by "The Reader's Digest and NBC Television News, especially correspondent Marvin Kalb.

The initial NBC presentation of "The Man Who Shot the Pope" appeared in 1982 and an updated version appeared just prior to your State of the Union message on Tuesday, January 25th, 1983.

New information revealed by the updated program seemed to fully confirm that the KGB was responsible for the attempted assassination of the Pope, primarily due to his encouragement of the Solidarity freedom movement in Poland. The conclusion becomes even more significant when one realizes that the new Soviet dictator Yuri Andropov, was head of the KGB at that time.

Correspondent Kalb revealed that American newsmen and Italian authorities investigating the attempted assassination have been urged to suppress the Soviet KGB connection by officials of the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department. Nevertheless, Italy and Mr. Kalb have courageously pursued their investigation into links between the Soviets and the murder attempt on the Pope.

Mr. Kalb said the apparent reason for American reluctance to let Italian authorities and investigating newsmen make that connection is United States concern over the international repercussions, specifically, ongoing arms control talks and trade issues between our nation and the Soviets. In other words, he implied that a massive coverup is being attempted by not only the Soviets, but also by the United States.

Page 2

The Honorable President Reagan

In your most recent press conference, you were questioned about the KGB connection, but indicated that you had no more information on the attack against the Pope than did the newsmen in the audience. Frankly, one finds that hard to believe, given the resources of the CIA and other U. S. intelligence agencies.

One must ask whether a deliberate attempt is being made at the highest levels of our government to suppress the KGB's involvement in the assassination attempt to preserve nonexistent "detente," arms control talks and trade. I sincerely hope and pray that this is not the case.

Therefore, I would appreciate knowing what officials, agencies, departments or persons representing you have been instructed to have KGB complicity played down or muffled in statements by American officials. What guidelines, if any, have been issued on this matter by you, or persons representing you?

For officials of our government to suppress evidence of such a horrible crime would be immoral and put us into the same category of the nation that plotted the assassination. It would be detrimental to our own national security and show our allies, such as Italy, that we will not stand by them in a confrontation with our common adversary, the Soviet Union. It would be appeasement at its worst since Neville Chamberlain's time.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you order the CIA to cooperate fully with Italian authorities in their investigation of the assassination attempt of the Pope. Also, I urge that you order the State Department to exhibit the same measure of cooperation and assistance. Further, I respectfully ask that you immediately tell the American people on nationwide televisions about the evidence compiled to date, regarding the KGB connection, and what steps the Administration is taking in retaliation against the Soviets.

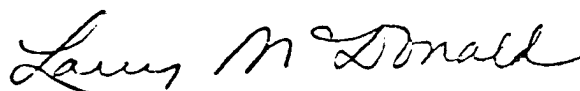
You have repeatedly demonstrated in the past that your instincts are sound and that your knowledge about the aims of the Soviet Union and its plans to dominate our world is complete. It is imperative that you, as leader of the Free World, must continue to chart a moral

Page 3

The Honorable Ronald Reagan

path and not allow your Administration to become bogged down in a matter that is much, much more serious than Watergate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry P. McDonald". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Larry P. McDonald, M.C.

LPM/tbaw

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

	ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1 DCI		✓		
2 DDCI		✓		
3 EXDIR		✓		
4 D/ICS				
5 DDI		✓		
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8 DDS&T				
9 Chm/NIC				
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11 IG				
12 Compt				
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SUSPENSE _____
Date

Remarks

4/13/84

Date

STAT

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Executive Registry
84-1524

April 11, 1984

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Some of us wrote to you on January 31, 1983 requesting a report on the CIA's behavior in uncovering or suppressing evidence of the KGB's role in the plot to assassinate Pope John Paul in June 1981. These requests for information on the KGB's role in the Papal assassination plot have been ignored by the CIA. Meanwhile, two authoritative books on the subject have been published, one by Claire Sterling entitled The Day of the Assassins, and another by Paul Henze entitled The Plot to Kill the Pope. We suspect that the CIA has tried to downplay the KGB's role in this plot, apparently for political reasons--a fear of criticizing the Soviet Union. Both of the above books have reached similar conclusions about the CIA's reluctance to report the KGB's role in the Papal assassination plot.

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With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Steve Semmes
Jim McChesney

CC: Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
Director, ACDA
Chairman, JCS
Director, CIA

Alfonse O'Connell

DCI
EXEC
REG