



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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5 June 1980

The Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43 Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Sir:

Frustration compels me to write The New York Times since there are no letters to the editors of television networks.

Last week (28 and 29 May), ABC News presented "a special three-part report on the power of the CIA" which totaled some 24 minutes. It left the viewer with the clear impression that CIA opposes a charter to define its authorities and functions, favors legislation restricting the press, and is seeking a total exemption from the Freedom of Information Act. This is not the truth and ABC knows it. ABC correspondent Brit Hume interviewed CIA Deputy Director Frank Carlucci for almost 40 video-taped minutes on these very subjects. Not a millisecond of that interview was used.

Today (5 June), ABC's "Good Morning America" adds insult to injury. E. Howard Hunt, a convicted Watergate plumber who has been gone from CIA for over ten years, is given prime morning time to appraise the Agency's effectiveness, judge the performance of our Director and tell young Americans the qualities they must possess to be successful intelligence officers.

Clearly the power of CIA to set the record straight is no match for the editorial power of ABC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Herbert E. Hetu".

Herbert E. Hetu
Director of Public Affairs

Identical letters sent to the Editors of The Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times