

White House  
Washington, D. C.

9-3-96

Dear President Clinton:

I am angry at the fact that United States government employees and operatives are allowed to break the law and even to be rewarded for criminal acts.

I am referring to the evidence being presented in the San Jose Mercury-News and elsewhere that those CIA personnel and their operatives who illegally imported cocaine into the United States during the Reagan years to finance the Nicaraguan Contra terrorists are still at liberty, have never been brought to justice, and, in at least one case, are today working for the Drug Enforcement Agency.

How can we possibly speak of fighting crime or seeking to control drug use when those who break the law are protected simply because they worked with the CIA (or other clandestine agencies)? Moreover, it is a travesty to have the Department of Justice seek to protect the identities of probable criminals simply because they were (or are) working with or for the CIA.

The president takes an oath to uphold the laws of the United States. It seems to me that this requires you to remove any U.S. government protection for anyone committing illegal acts (except in time of declared war or a declared emergency).

I am asking that you issue an executive order removing the secrecy or confidential classifications from any document or the portion thereof, which reveals evidence relating to illegal acts committed by any person regardless of his or her employment status. Confidential sources or the names of agents or employees not involved in the illegal action could, of course, be protected.

It should also be a serious felony for anyone to destroy any evidence relating to any illegal acts committed by any persons known to the United States government.

Certain former U.S. government employees have also knowingly aided and engaged in a conspiracy to commit felonies (such as acts of terrorism or torture as in Nicaragua and Guatemala). Such persons should no longer be shielded. They should be prosecuted.

We cannot speak of "Values and ethics" if we continue to shield law-violators and even to pay and otherwise reward them. This hypocrisy may be at the very heart of the decay of values and patriotism in the United States.

Sincerely yours,

Jack D. Forbes

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Diane Feinstein  
Rep. Vic Fazio