WACO / BRANCH DAVIDIAN COMPOUND

File No. # 63-HQ-105305

Section No # 8

88pgs

SUBJECT Waco/Branch Davidian Compound

FILE NUMBER 63-HQ-1050305

SECTION NUMBER 8

EXEMPTIONS: b6 b7C

(see section 1 for Explanation of Exemptions)

0-93 (Rev. 01/25/91)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

TRANSMIT VIA:
[X] Teletype

PRECEDENCE:
[ ] Immediate
[ ] Priority
[X] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
[ ] TOP SECRET
[ ] SECRET
[ ] CONFIDENTIAL
[ ] UNCLAS E F T O
[X] UNCLAS

DATE: 3/9/93

^PAGE 1 OF 3

324

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO ALL FBI FIELD OFFICES/ROUTINE/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //0070//

Owl... TX

SUBJECT: JOINT STATEMENT OF ATF DIRECTOR HIGGINS AND FBI DIRECTOR SESSIONS.

THESE ARE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES FOR THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS, AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. THERE ARE SIMULTANEOUS MAJOR OPERATIONS UNDERWAY IN NEW YORK AND TEXAS THAT REQUIRE AN ENORMOUS DEDICATION OF AGENTS, RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FROM BOTH AGENCIES. THE CARNAGE FROM THE BOMB IN NEW YORK AND THE TRAGIC LOSS OF OUR OWN IN TEXAS DEMANDS THE BEST THAT WE CAN GIVE IN SKILL, PROFESSIONALISM AND COOPERATION. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE ATF

ORIGINAL FILED IN

63-HQ-1050305-532

******* FOR COMM CENTER USE ONLY *******

NOTE: Copy Designations Are On The Last Page Of This Teletype!!!

Approved By LSS 3/10/93

MRI/JUL 1736/69

Transmitted 0044

MAR 11 1993

ISN 157

0-93A (Rev. 01/25/91)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

AND THE FBI AND THE TEAMWORK OF THOSE WORKING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER AT THE SITES WILL SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVE BOTH SITUATIONS. WE COMMEND ALL OF YOU AROUND THE COUNTRY THAT CONTINUE TO PUT FORTH A TIRELESS EFFORT IN THAT REGARD.

JUST AS THE TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION OF THE TWO AGENCIES IS AS IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW AS IT HAS EVER BEEN, SO IS THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF PROFESSIONALISM. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS RECENTLY OF UNNAMED AGENTS SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA ABOUT ASPECTS OF BOTH OPERATIONS AND CRITICAL OF THE OTHER AGENCY. THESE TYPES OF UNAUTHORIZED AND INACCURATE COMMENTS ONLY SERVE TO UNDERMINE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN OUR AGENCIES. THEY ALSO HOLD THE POTENTIAL FOR JEOPARDIZING THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSIONS OF BOTH OPERATION, ARE DIVISIVE AND ONLY SERVE TO WEAKEN THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS UNDERWAY IN TEXAS AND NEW YORK. WE ALL HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF. WE ASK ALL OF YOU TO REMEMBER THAT AND NOT RISK THE OUTCOME OF THE TWO OPERATIONS BY ACTING UNPROFESSIONALLY WITH LOOSE AND OFTEN UNINFORMED COMMENTS TO THE PRESS.

0-93A (Rev. 01/25/91)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

^PAGE 3 UNCLAS

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE A COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION TO ALL EMPLOYEES. ATF DIRECTOR HIGGINS SENT THIS MESSAGE TO ALL ATF PERSONNEL.BT////

0-93B (Rev. 01/25/91)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

b6
b1c

Drafted By: JEC[redacted] Room/TL #: 7240 Phone No: 2727

COPY DESIGNATIONS:

1 - MR. CLARKE

1 - MR. GOW

1 - MR. KENNEDY

1 - EACH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

1 - MR. GUIDO

1 - MR. PEREZ

1 - MR. BRIXEY

1 - MR. DRAKE

1 - MR. CHASE

1 - MISS ADAMS

1 - MR. COLLINGWOOD

1 - MR. MANDIGO

1 - MANUALS DESK

THE NATIONAL COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION
4381 BRAUNTON ROAD, UPPER ARLINGTON, OH 43220-4304
TELEPHONE 614 451 0278

20 APRIL 1993

WILLIAM SESSIONS
DIRECTOR - FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CONSTITUTION AVENUE & 10TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGON, D. C. 20530

DEAR SIR:

THIS PERSONAL MESSAGE IS TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I APPROVE OF YOUR HANDLING OF THE SITUATION AT WACO TEXAS. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME FOR SUPPORT AS NEEDED IN THE FUTURE IN ALL MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

SINCERELY

[redacted] b6 b7c

MAILED 16
MAY 26 1993
FBI

Dear Mr. [redacted]

63-HQ-1050305-533

1-ENCLOSURE

63-HQ-1050305

b6 b7c

ACK 5/24/93 [redacted]

b6 b7c [redacted]

GOLDEN SPHINX

The Voice of Intelligence

THE NATIONAL COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSN.

PURPOSES AND IDEALS OF THE NCICA

with appropriate comments by Major General C. F. Leonard, Jr., former NCICA Chairman Herbert M. Lightner, and Major General William H. Blakefield.

The purposes of the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association are stated in Article II of its constitution:

"The purposes of this Corporation shall be to provide a national organization for individual members qualified as hereinafter set forth; to keep abreast of counterintelligence problems and inform the general public or appropriate public officials of any subversive activities; to render all possible cooperation and assistance to the effort of the military in its counterintelligence activities; to promote and strengthen the bonds of fellowship among the Corporation members, and generally to perpetuate the ideals and principles of the former United States Army Counter Intelligence Corps."

63-HQ-1050309-535

ENCLOSURE

OVER 2,000 MEMBERS

In a memorandum dated 17 November 1965, **Major General C. F. Leonard, Jr.**, Chief, Intelligence Corps, U.S. Army, made the following remarks to Counterintelligence agents, U.S. Army:*

*1. The date for the discontinuance of the Intelligence Corps has not yet been set, but it now appears that it will be around 1 January 1966. Through the past 48 years, one of the great sustaining strengths of the Intelligence Corps (and its predecessors, the Corps of Intelligence Police and the Counter Intelligence Corps) has been the high esprit de corps of its members. One evidence of this high esprit is the existence of a thriving world-wide **National Counter Intelligence Corps Association.**

2. Although the name of the Intelligence Corps is now passing into history, the mission and the responsibility, as well as the challenge, continue with us today . . . in some ways greater than in any period since 1917. For this reason, I feel that it is most important for the members of the Corps to retain the traditions of sticking together and of guarding zealously the honor of the Corps . . . even after it loses its name. To this end we must cultivate those aspects of the Corps' being which promote this goal. The National Counter Intelligence Corps Association is a case in point.

3. The National Counter Intelligence Corps Association was incorporated in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois after the groups' first national convention in Chicago in 1948. The Association now maintains its headquarters here in Baltimore. Its membership is drawn from people who are or have been in the Intelligence Corps, the Counter Intelligence Corps, or the Corps of Intelligence Police.

4. The purposes of the Association are still expanding. Initially it began as an organization to bring together people who had justifiable pride in a common experience and who wished to retain and strengthen the links of friendship and comradeship. Its annual national convention for members, wives and their families primarily promotes this goal. In recent years the Association has branched out and has sponsored various memorials; made valuable gifts to the collection of the U.S. Army Intelligence Museum; assisted the Intelligence Corps in recruiting new members; cooperated as individuals with Corps field elements; acted as an information bureau for its members so that old friends could keep in touch; helped Corps members who were leaving the Army to find civilian employment and housing; and published as part of its educational program the Golden Sphinx.

5. The Golden Sphinx has been making worthy contributions in keeping its subscribers abreast on matters of security. Recent articles have covered Communist activities and strategy; insurgency; the characteristics and detection of subversion; the basis of liberty; recent decisions in Federal courts influencing security matters; the John Birch Society and the Black Muslims.

6. I recommend to all eligible personnel of the Intelligence Corps their membership in the **National Counter Intelligence Corps Association.**

(signed) C. F. LEONARD, JR.
Major General, USA
Chief, Intelligence Corps

Herb Lightner, former NCICA Chairman, probably best described the purposes, spirit and soul of this organization when he wrote the following words:

The NCICA is basically a World-wide group of former Counter Intelligence Corps personnel, chartered in the state of Illinois as a non-profit organization. We are strictly a civilian organization. We are the "Alumni", for those who have been engaged in Counter Intelligence activities.

Our purposes include: to keep alive and further friendships emanating from our active duty days, making new friendships of former CICers, from our planned and casual social and business functions and activities – helping one another through our combined NCICA efforts and association, to perpetuate the ideals and principles of CIC, keeping abreast of subversives and taking action to counter such activities; to keep alive and enhance all that is fine and worthwhile of Intelligence careers; to unite former CICers and present members (now Army Intelligence Corps) in their continued, common interest toward promoting and advancing the security of the United States; to assist the present Army Intelligence Corps by continued liaison with the United States Army Intelligence; to provide a central clearing house for our mutual suggestions and interests and to make possible, contact with our members for personnel and business reasons, on a World-wide basis.

Our Policy Committee and Board of Governors meet with the Army Chief of Intelligence, the G-2, etc., for the furtherance of our mutual interests. Our members have delivered thousands of speeches, upon request, to clubs, groups and interested citizens. Speaking material and assistance is available.

Annually we have a National Convention, where members and their guests, their wives and families gather to re-live old times and renew friendships as well as make new friendships and plan new events. Our various Local Clubs meet regularly for meetings, social functions and business contacts. All Locals are affiliates of the NCICA.

Our official organ is the GOLDEN SPHINX, the Voice of Intelligence.

– *Herbert M. Lightner*

Major General William H. Blakefield in a letter addressed to the present chairman, Otto E. Fiedler, February 19, 1970, wrote the following kind words –

"I have grown to value the NCICA, its cult of the counterintelligence agent, and the work which the Association sponsors to build and maintain the high esprit of Army counterintelligence."

- - - - - - - - - -

"I will look forward to receiving all the privileges of a Life Member, including the subscription to the GOLDEN SPHINX. I will watch your progress closely."

- - - - - - - - - -

"I want to wish you and the whole organization a very successful future. I hope you will continue your fine work for years to come."

(signed) WILLIAM H. BLAKEFIELD
Major General, U.S.A. Commanding
U.S. Army Intelligence Command

FACTS ON MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

1. PURPOSES. The ultimate purposes of the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association (NCICA) are as follows:

a. To keep alive and further the friendships emanating from active duty days, making new friendships of present and former counterintelligence agents through planned and casual social and business functions.

b. To help one another through combined efforts and association, socially and professionally.

c. To perpetuate the ideals and principles of the Counter Intelligence Corps and its successors, by keeping abreast of subversives and taking action to counter such activities.

d. To keep alive and enhance all that is fine and worthwhile in intelligence careers in the U.S. Army.

e. To unite former and present counterintelligence agents in their continued common interest of promoting and advancing the security of the United States.

f. To assist the present Army Intelligence by continued liaison with the U.S. Army Intelligence Command.

g. To sponsor appropriate memorials, such as, the bronze plaque to the honored dead of the Counter Intelligence Corps on the base of the golden sphinx in front of the main buildings at Fort Holabird and the mosaic crest of the Counter Intelligence Corps School on the floor of the foyer in Tallmadge Hall.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP. Only personnel who have held or now hold the MOS's of the counterintelligence agent are eligible for membership in the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association.

3. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP.

a. Life Membership $150.00 Each such member receives a beautiful membership certificate and "Special Agent" credentials. Life members also receive a life-time subscription to the **Golden Sphinx.**

b. Direct Membership $10.00 Direct membership is on a yearly basis with a new card and receipt issued each calendar year.

4. BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.

a. All members receive the **Golden Sphinx**, the "Voice of Intelligence," which is the official publication of the NCICA.

b. The NCICA headquarters keeps an extensive file on members providing the best source of contact among its members. This service is available only to members in good standing.

c. The NCICA is a clearing house for all ex-agents, their ideas and needs. The national headquarters will pass on information on employment, real estate, housing, insurance and business contacts.

d. Each August a national convention is held where members and their families may have reunions, make new friends and business contacts, solve all the World's problems -- current and past -- and have a real, down-to-earth good time.

e. Local clubs promote close fellowship and frequent social and business meetings. The formation of local clubs is encouraged.

5. RELATIONS TO THE U.S. ARMY. The National Counter Intelligence Corps Association is a civilian organization incorporated in accordance with the laws of the state of Illinois in 1948. The Commanding General of the U.S. Army Intelligence Command appoints an official and permanent NCICA Liaison Officer. Close contact is also maintained with the Commandant of the U.S. Army Intelligence School.

6. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP. All applications for membership should be mailed to The National Counter Intelligence Corps Association, 4381 Braunton Road Upper Arlington, OH 43220-4304

Reprinted-January 1993

[redacted]

May 1, 1993 324

b6
b7C

William Sessions
Director of the F.B.I.
9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

[redacted]

Dear Mr. Sessions:

After witnessing the response of our federal agents and elected officials to the situation at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco Texas, I feel it is necessary for me to voice my strongest disapproval in this formal letter. At every stage of the incident, including the aftermath, our federal and elected officials displayed the highest levels of incompetence. In this letter, I will systematically review how our nation's public servants mismanaged each stage of the operation.

The first stage of the government operation began with the initial raid of the Davidian compound by federal agents, charging that David Koresh and some of his followers possessed illegal weapons. It's a sad commentary that a raid which was motivated by nine months of planning and included undercover agents would end in such tragedy. Four agents and two Davidians were killed in an exercise that was intended to save lives and protect innocent people, in and out of the compound, from illegal firearms.

The massive blunder evident at this stage raises many questions that reflect the ineptness of our federal law enforcement agents who are supposed to be intelligent and well trained. Why did the agents have to storm the compound with force, putting innocent women and children inside the compound in jeopardy? The whole crisis could have been averted, at this stage, if federal agents had avoided an initial siege by force and waited to arrest Koresh (the absolute ruler of the accused) when he left the compound, doing such things as going out for a morning jog or a trip to the supermarket. After nine months of planning, one would like to think that our public servants would be smart enough to take this form of action that would avoid putting innocent women and children into harms way.

63-HQ-1050305-53

Shortly before the initial raid took place, it became evident that the people within the compound may have been aware of the impending federal assault. This was due to the fact that officials from the press were already waiting outside,

MAILED 16
MAY 26 1993

ack 5/24/93 [redacted]

b6
b7C

MAIL ROOM ☑

63-HQ-1050305

b6
b7C
OPCA [redacted]

even before federal agents had arrived. After witnessing this, why didn't the agent in charge abort the operation and proceed with another plan, such as secretly staking out the compound and arresting Koresh when he leaves? In short, if we had competent federal law enforcement officials who were more apt at using their brains first rather than arrogantly displaying force, lives would have been saved and the entire crisis avoided.

The multiplicity of mistakes made by federal agents during the first stage of the entire incident were grave and irreversible. The explanation given by them was that they were simply outgunned, but I say that they were simply arrogant and incompetent. Whoever planned, organized, or led the initial raid should be dismissed from their post.

I would categorize the second stage of the Waco affair as including the F.B.I.'s attempts of using negotiations and psychological tactics to bring the standoff to a successful conclusion. On T.V. news, I saw William Sessions (Director of the F.B.I.) describe the F.B.I.'s "closing the perimeter of the compound" tactic which on the surface seemed interesting, but in reality it brought the whole incident to a horrible conclusion. The F.B.I.'s psychological tactics were elementary at best. They included playing bizarre, loud sounds or music in a pathetic attempt to drive David Koresh and his followers out of the compound. In all probability, the net effect of these tactics were that it drove a madman even madder.

The F.B.I. has departments that spend millions of dollars of our tax money in researching behavioral sciences or the psychological behavior of human beings. Taking this into account, it's pitiful that one of the best psychological strategies that they could think of was playing loud sounds outside the compound. It is also obvious that the F.B.I. dramatically failed in negotiating with David Koresh and his followers. After 51 days of negotiating and playing bizarre, loud sounds, it was the F.B.I. that lost patience and stamina, not the Davidians. It was the F.B.I. who compromised its position by making a rash sieze of the compound, which resulted in the deaths of 80+ people, the very same people the F.B.I.'s operation was designed to protect.

Let's look at the third stage of the incident, which I would categorize as being the tragic conclusion of the standoff. I have one major question in regard to this stage and that is why did the F.B.I. decide to move when it did? Their answer was that their agents were getting tired and they had no relief for them. I find this answer completely false as well as unacceptable.

I believe, although I cannot prove, that the real

reason the F.B.I. moved when they did was because of political pressure based on press releases concerning the cost of the operation. One such press release stated that during the 51 day standoff at Waco, federal agents spent close to a million dollars on food costs alone. This does not even include the millions of dollars spent on other expenses to finance the operation, such as servicing M-1 battle tanks. In short, the public was outraged at the unwarranted costs (one million dollar food bill) of the operation and this is what probably motivated the premature attack by the F.B.I.

It's also absurd that a trapped, outnumbered, untrained, unpaid, and probably malnourished cult could outlast an extensively trained, organized, paid, and well-fed group of federal agents. David Koresh's group was not willing to give up. Why was the F.B.I. so fatigued or in dire need of being replaced? Also, how come there was no available unit to replace the federal agents who had been there throughout the incident? With the hundreds of billions of tax dollars our government spends on federal, state, and local law enforcement officials nationwide, one would think that at least one team would be available for relief.

The tear-gas assault on the Davidian compound by the F.B.I. was obviously marred with flaws. Plan "A" of the F.B.I.'s final siege involved using armored vehicles to punch wholes in the Davidian compound, while injecting tear-gas inside to flush out the occupants. When it became evident that plan "A" was not working, where was Plan "B"? Why did the F.B.I. stake all of its apples in one basket by not having a contingency plan?

Another major question concerning the final assault is why was the fire department not included in any part of the F.B.I.'s plan? I find this dilemma shocking, considering that only a week earlier Koresh announced that any attempts to sieze his compound would be followed by an apocalypse of fire.

In the final analysis of the first three stages of the Waco incident, one must conclude that every stage was consumed with flaws and failure on the part of our federal officials. This is highly unacceptable because billions of dollars of our tax money is spent training and paying the salaries of these inept federal law enforcement agents. It is pitiful that with all this money spent on their behalf, their job performance is no better than amateurs off the street.

The final stage of the Waco affair would include the aftermath of the tragic destruction of the compound. This stage is categorized by federal law enforcement leaders and politicians, trying to shift the entire blame on David Koresh

for the Waco incident's horrible conclusion, in a feeble attempt to cover up their own massive blunders. I don't think any American citizen believes that David Koresh is not at least partly responsible for the many deaths that resulted from the Waco situation. However, our government must also come forward and assume responsibility.

The response to the Waco catastrophe by our government leaders reflects indecisiveness, incompetence, and even cowardness. President Clinton's reaction was very similar to his notorious statement "I smoked marijuana but I didn't inhale it." He claimed that he approved Attorney General Janet Reno's decision to go ahead with the F.B.I. tear-gas assault, but the final decision was hers. President Clinton expects the American people to believe that there is no difference between approving a decision and making a decision, especially when he is President of the United States.

William Sessions, Director of the F.B.I., and Attorney General Janet Reno both claimed that if they thought that David Koresh would order a mass suicide they would not have ordered the final federal assault. Both of them should be dismissed from their posts for making such an absurd statement. How could anyone not even consider that David Koresh and his followers might commit a mass suicide? There were many factors which indicated that David Koresh might order a mass suicide. These factors include: the fact that the Davidian compound had "Apocalypse" as one of its nicknames; Koresh had promised one week before the final raid that the compound would be engulfed in fire; and finally, using the Jonestown example as a reference point in history for the F.B.I., one can see what cult leaders are willing to do. Also, if the first use of force by federal agents failed, why did the F.B.I. think that a second show of force would be successful? In short, it was probably clear to most American citizens that Koresh might order a mass suicide, it should have been taken into account by the F.B.I. The F.B.I. should have had an alternative plan to deal with the possibility of a mass suicide taking place when they assaulted the Davidian compound.

In the final analysis, with government intervention, over 80 people are dead. Without government intervention, it is safe to assume that these people would be alive today. Our government failed to protect the women and children inside the Davidian compound and must take at least partial responsibility for its failures.

The government failed at every stage of the Waco incident. If the mistakes of this magnitude took place in a private sector organization, the planners would be held accountable and fired. Our government must resume some form

of responsibility for the Waco catastrophe and be held liable by the American people. The organizers, planners, and leaders of the Waco operation should all be dismissed from their posts, if the government inquiry that is now taking place is to mean anything.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

CC: Director of the F.B.I. William Sessions
President William Clinton
Attorney General Janet Reno
Senator Alfonse D'Amato
Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Congressman Peter King

P.S. As my public servants, I request a response from each party receiving a copy of this letter.

PRO

May 10, 1993

[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation Building
Office of Director Sessions
Ninth St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20537-9700

b6
b7C

Dear Director Sessions:

My name is [redacted] I am 13 years old and I go to St. Paul Lutheran School in Fort Worth, TX. I think you did a wonderful job in Waco, TX, at the cult standoff!

They could have come out at anytime. I think you waited long enough before going in. I am so glad you waited long enough to get some of the children out. Those people that blame you for starting the fire are just trying to make the F.B.I. and A.T.F. look bad.

Well, I just wanted to let you know how I feel about this whole thing. Thank you for your time and patience in reading my letter.

Sincerely,

b6
b7C

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

MAILED 16
MAY 26 1993

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL
1800 West Freeway
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Federal Bureau of Investigation Building
Office of Director Sessions
Ninth St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20537-9700

63-HQ-1050305-55

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

63-HQ-1050305

MAIL ROOM
ACK 5/24/93

[redacted] b6 b7C [redacted]

22 April 1993

Waco TX 324

Dear Director Sessions:

I was appalled at the February 28 attack and continue to be appalled. David Koresh regularly jogged and came to town for supplies. Why wasn't he quietly arrested then?

Did you see the letter in the Wall Street Journal which compared the Nazi attack on the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto with the Feb 28 attack. No difference. I am sure children were killed then too.

I agree with the column so I am sending it.

Does the government never admit to wrong?

Yours truly

63-HQ-1050305 [redacted]

MAILED 16 MAY 26 1993

Form cm

b6 b7C

Ack 5/24/93 [redacted]

MAIL ROOM ☑ MPHG

1 ENCLOSURE 1 encl

b6 b7C

Director of Federal Bureau of Invest.
FBI Headquarters
Ninth St. & Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20535 0000

MITCHELL'S VIEW

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE, ROCHESTER, N.Y., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1993

David Koresh 'wasn't hurting anyone'

If anyone can think of anything good to be said about the law enforcement's handling of the Branch Davidians from beginning to end, call someone in authority. I can't think of a single thing.

We're looking at 80-something people dead, including 17 children, for what?

David Koresh bought a lot of guns, legally.

MOLLY IVINS

The Koresh compound never needed to be assaulted in the first place. Law enforcement people around Waco, including the sheriff and the former district attorney, said Koresh would come in whenever they needed to talk to him. All they had to do was call.

Not only was there no reason to attack the compound almost two months ago, there was no reason to attack it Mondayeither.

Dick DeGuerin, Koresh's lawyer, obviously still in shock Monday afternoon, said, "Oh yeah, of course he would have come out peacefully. We've got it in writing from him. He wanted to finish working on this manuscript.

"I don't know what I expected when I first went in there, but he was very lucid, very reasonable.

"Koresh was just readin' the Bible. That's all they did in there, just read the Bible.

"I was over at Rex Cauble's trial this mornin', and when I heard, when I saw what they were doing, using those Bradleys to push over the walls and gassing those kids, I asked the judge to let me out of trial," DeGuerin continued. "I came straight here. Those Bradleys were tearing apart the kids' rooms, tearing apart the windows of the kids' rooms. I saw the kids in there. They were peaceful and happy."

At the time of the Jim Jones massacre in Guyana, there was a great deal printed about the psychology of cults, including the need of cult leaders to cut their followers off from outside influences.

Koresh clearly showed some traits in this pattern, predicting a confrontation for several years. But he also had outside contacts, expeditions, buying trips.

When the final confrontation with authority was forced — by the authorities, not by Koresh — the mass suicide was predictable. It is part of a cult pattern.

Koresh was still talking to outsiders, to his lawyers. He wasn't hurting anyone.

Maybe he wouldn't have come out after he finished his manuscript. So what? They'd already thrown a fence around the place. All they had to do was put one guard by a gate and wait.

Tell me it's just a coincidence that the laws waded into the compound again after snide stories appeared in the papers making fun of them, making them look ridiculous. Who has the right to put ridicule ahead of the lives of 17 children?

The FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents responsible for this fiasco have no right to claim Koresh was unreasonable, that he wouldn't negotiate or cooperate — because they never tried it. They went in there in the first place with guns blazing and apparently killed some of their own agents. When someone comes at you firing weapons, it is not an invitation to reasonable negotiation.

But they got a hell of an ending for their made-for-TV movies, didn't they? ❑

Molly Ivins is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

ENCLOSURE

Fold at line over top of envelope to the right of the return address

CERTIFIED

P [redacted] 335 164

MAIL

[redacted]

Waco [redacted]

May 6, 199

b6
b7C

324

Dep. Dir.
ADD Adm.
ADD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Ident.
Inv. Ext. Ag.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Cong. Affs. Off.
Off. of EED
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public Affs.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

Ms. Janet Reno
Attorney-General
Main Justice Building
10th and Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20530

O Waco Tx

Good morning:

I am fully aware that you will probably never see this letter - but if your staff is keeping some kind of record - list us as one entire organization giving a positive vote to the backing of your decision in the Waco incident.

I can't tolerate this criticism of everyone EXCEPT Koresh. HE was the one who started this pitiful situation. HE had no regard for the lives of the children, or he would have seen to it that the children left the compound. In all those weeks, he certainly had plenty of time to do that. Isn't it sad that these children are better off having died in childhood, than they would have been if they had lived. Having been brought up in the atmosphere of the compound - what would they have developed into as adults?

Nor do we see any merit in a "Congressional investigation"! The only thing it seemed to do was give some of the members an opportunity to do some grandstanding. They weren't involved - they had no IDEA of what was involved - and they could only do some Monday-morning-quarterbacking! Better they spent the time in their own offices - working on the problems of the office, and the voters they are supposed to be representing. In fact, after listening to, and watching, the questioning session - we found some of the members quite lacking - in MANY areas. Some of them sounded more like a dog trying to worry a bone to death.

We feel that you had an incredibly difficult and heart-wrenching decision to make. And you handled it with dignity.

MAILED 16

MAY 2 5 1993

63-HQ-1050305-537

Mr. William S. Sessions
J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building
9th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20535

MAIL ROOM ☑ [redacted]

b6 b7C

b6
b7C

63-HQ-1050305

Form Pro

b6
b7C

OPCA [redacted]

Another point on which we feel strongly: The attorneys that have crawled out of the woodwork - encourging lawsuits against any and everyone. It is pitiable that so many of the legal profession have no scruples against nuisance lawsuits - anything to give themselves exposure to the public and the courts. Truly, lawyers of this calibre should be FINED for taking up the time of the courts.

We feel heartache for the families of the men killed in the original assault. Everyone involved in this operation had to have had questions in their minds and sadness in their hearts!

We think you ALL are to be commended!

[redacted]

b6
b7c

cc: William S. Sessions - FBI ✓
ATF headquarters
Senators Dole and Kassabaum
Representative Jan Myers
Andy Rooney

con?

324

Dear Mr Sessions: Re: Koresh

If you had a group of Japanese holed up in a compound who were breaking the law & not making sense you'd find an interpretor to talk in their language. If a religious cult is the culpret, find a religious person who knows the "language" <Billy Graham? David Wilkerson? Pat Robertson?> Bombard the compound with God's Word ... the very words they've twisted ... and you have a chance to "reach" them. Blow loud, stupid, non-sensical music at them - keeping them from rest - and you've ruined any chance you might have had for a dialog

ack 5/24/93

63-HQ-1050305 [redacted]

Waco TX

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

ack 5/24/93

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6 63-HQ-1050305-538

b7C

Dea [redacted]

MAIL ROOM [redacted]

and an eventual end to the stand-off. What this country needs is more common sense and less knee-jerk response.

Respectfully —

[redacted]

Wren Building, College of William & Mary

Mr. William Sessions
Fed'l Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

[redacted]

b6
b7C

March 27, 1993

Director William S. Sessions
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC.

Dear Sir;

I am writing for two reasons: 1) to express my concern about recent FBI activities, and 2) to express my concern with the FBI's apparent lack of an appropriate channel for receiving complaints from concerned citizens.

As to the first issue, it has been brought to my attention that the FBI recently used highly amplified recordings of Tibetan sacred chants as a method of "sonic assault" against the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas. Perhaps, the FBI is unaware that these recordings are not merely "music" but are solemn sacred rites performed by specially-trained monks of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. To use our liturgical texts in such a way is very offensive and disrespectful, in the same way that to blare a Catholic mass over loudspeakers with the intention to annoy would be offensive to Catholics, etc. [redacted] DharmaNet, join The US-Tibet Committee and The Tibet Action Network, and thousands of Buddhists, to state quite plainly that this behavior by the FBI is inappropriate and must stop. It is my hope that this behavior has, in fact, stopped.

b6 b7C

With regard to the second concern, I was greatly disturbed by my attempt to register my complaint over the telephone with the FBI in Washington DC. During my call on March 25, I could hear giggling in the background as I was explaining my concern. I was then transferred four times to different people, each time being cut off in mid-sentence. During my fourth explanation, I was asked where I was calling from, and, after replying that I was calling from California, I was disconnected. I called back and was told to call the California office and was given the number in San Francisco. Calling the San Francisco office, I was transferred to the voice mail of the duty officer. No one ever responded to or properly heard my complaint, and it is for this reason that I am writing this to the Director of the FBI, and forwarding a copy to President Clinton.

I hope this will receive serious attention. Thank you.

b6 b7C

[redacted] DharmaNet
P.O. Box 4951
Berkeley CA 94704-4951
(510) 465-7403

63-HQ-1050305-539

b6 b7C

cc: President William J. Clinton
Washington, DC. 20500

ICIC 5/26/93 b6 b7C [redacted]

May 25, 1993

324

[redacted]

DharmaNet
Post Office Box 4951
Berkeley, California 94704-4951

b6
b7C

Dear Mr. [redacted] OWaco TX

Your letter to Director Sessions expressing concern about the FBI's use of Tibetan Buddhist chants during the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, has been brought to my attention.

I first want to apologize for the way you were treated both here in Washington and in San Francisco when you called in an attempt to register your complaint. The treatment you described is unprofessional and I believe was an exception, not the rule. I will certainly pass your comments on to our Criminal Investigative Division, which was in charge of this investigation here at FBI Headquarters.

With regard to your complaint, your concern regarding the religious significance of the Tibetan Buddhist chants and the fact that to some people it is offensive to play them for other than holy purposes is certainly understandable. We were made aware of this and discontinued use of the chants.

Please be assured that the use of any investigative techniques is not intended to be offensive or disrespectful to any individual or group, but is solely used as a tool to assist in an investigation.

We appreciate your writing and providing us an opportunity to address your concern.

Sincerely yours,

b6
b7C

MFK/[redacted]

Michael F. Knapp
Inspector-Deputy Chief
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 31
MAY 2 6 1993
FBI

Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. ____
ADD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
CJIS ____
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. ____
Insp. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEOA ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
TOM Office ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Office ____

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
1 - SAC, San Francisco - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Potts - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

63-HQ-1050305-54

NOTE: Substance of above reply concerning the chants taken from a previous response to a similar congressional inquiry prepared by SSA [redacted]

[redacted] (7)

63-HQ-1050305

MAIL ROOM MK/[redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6
b7C
32P

Dep. Dir.
ADD Adm.
ADD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Ident.
Info. Mgmt.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Cong. Affs. Off.
Off. of ECO
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public Affs.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

TELEPHONE
(907) 264-1405

May 10, 1093

William S. Sessions
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigations
9th Street and Pennsylvania N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Subject: Gassing and cremation of the Branch Dravidian Cult in Waco, Texas

Dear Mr. Sessions:

Your decision to use tanks to brake down the walls of the Branch Dravidian Cult Headquarters and subsequent gassing of the building, resulted in the deaths of everyone inside.

This plan was obviously very poorly conceived and very poorly executed, all in the name of expediency. Before the tanks crashed into the building all the people were alive.

After 51 days there was no need to take this abrupt kind of action. Patience and time would have been far more effective.

Sincerely,

63-HQ-1050305-541

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

MAILED 16
MAY 26 1993
FBI

Form Corr

Ack 5/24/93 [redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

b6
b7C

OPCA/[redacted]

MAIL ROOM ☑ 63-HQ-1050305

MF[redacted]

[redacted]

b6
b7C

324

April 19, 1993

Public Relations Officer
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Ninth St. and Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20535-0000

Dear Sir/Madam:

Waco TX

I was shocked to hear how your agency resolved the standoff with the Davidian group in Waco. I have many questions that I hope you will please answer.

What is the rationale of pushing down large areas of buildings if agents plan to use tear gas? Would that make outside air flow more freely into the area where the gas is directed? Further, wouldn't it make a possible fire spread more quickly?

Had the followers come out with hands up, as directed, what would FBI agents have done? Had they been told clearly that they wouldn't be harmed?

Is it possible that the gas used caused the people to lose consciousness so that they were unable to come out? Has it ever been known to cause unconsciousness or death?

The news reports stated that the tear gas was nonflammable. Specifically what gas was used? What is its chemical formula?

News reports stated also that the FBI personnel were prepared to handle any unexpected event, including mass suicide. Why were no firetrucks located in the area? Wouldn't the followers' burning the compound be an event that a person might reasonably expect?

How much time elapsed from the start of the fire until fire people were called? Did an FBI agent call them, or did someone else do it? Were firetrucks able to get to the compound without any unnecessary delay from being obstructed by FBI, army, or police vehicles that might have blocked the roadway?

A recent Newsweek article indicated that at least some of the ATF agents were killed by their own men. Has an investigation been made so see if this did happen? Is any such investigation planned?

Like many others, I have more unanswered questions, but perhaps news reports will enlighten me.

Thanks for your answers.

63-HQ-1050305-542

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

Ack
5/25/93

[redacted]

b6
b7C

OPCA

[redacted]

May 25, 1993 324

[redacted] b6 b7C

Dear [redacted]

I am writing in response to your April 19th letter in which you asked a number of questions concerning the standoff involving the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

The questions you posed have been answered in hearings before Congress and in several press briefings. Since you have obviously followed the story very closely, I am sure your questions have been addressed in the media.

As with any incident of this type, a thorough study is conducted and I am sure, like all other aspects of this incident, the results will be widely reported.

The events of April 19th are tragic for everyone involved--those who lost their lives, their families and friends, and our Agents who risked their lives in an effort to prevent this tragedy.

As we examine our efforts in the days and months to come, I believe it will be clear that, given the circumstances, the actions taken by law enforcement were responsible and reasonable.

Sincerely yours, b6 b7C

MFK/[redacted]

Michael F. Knapp
Inspector-Deputy Chief
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 31
MAY 2 6 1993
FBI

Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. ____
ADD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
CJIS ____
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. ____
Insp. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEOA ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
TOM Office ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Office ____

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

63-HQ-1050305-543

[redacted] (5) b6 b7C

63-HQ-1050305

MAIL ROOM MK/[redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

310

May 12, 1993

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20543

Dear Sir -

I have once before written to your Department regarding the continued siege at Waco, Texas before the final outcome at the Koresh compound. Since the tragic disaster, controversial questions have arisen - Many Publications and syndicated columnist have placed the blame, mistakenly on Federal Authorities. I have sent the enclosed Article, which I have written on true facts of the subject to newspapers in Waterbury, Naugatuck and to Hartford Courant. Have recieved many commendations and suggestions to send copy to the F.B.I.

63-HQ-1050305-544

I trust you will find the time to read my opinion and, I am sure, many other.

FBI

63-HQ-1050305

[redacted]

over b6 b7C

b6
b7C

citizens of the same areas.

Morality, in our Nation, has sunk to a low level, supported by radical groups and those who oppose authority and have no respect for law and order.

I am now, due to unfortunate illness confined to a wheel-chair at [redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted] it would be a great incentive for me, that my efforts in confronting animosity and misrepresentation to the Public, is not in vain and my Article will be published in the proper areas in Washington and elsewhere.

I thank you for your kind consideration. Trusting I will hear from you and all Best Wishes to you and all the brave members of the F.B.I. I am

Very Truly

[redacted]

MAILED 16

MAY 28 1993

MAIL ROOM ☑

on
20
ACK
5/25/93

b6
b7C

[redacted]

Dear Mr [redacted]

4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552		Section 552a
☐ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☑ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
☑ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

☐ For your information: _____

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

63-HQ-1050305-544

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

310

May 10, 1993

[redacted]

b6
b7C Dear [redacted]

Waco TX

Thank you for your letter of April 29th and for forwarding your work on "The Church and Cults-Preventing Chaos." I will forward copies to the Attorney General in connection with the Department of Justice review of the Mount Carmel standoff and to our Behavioral Science Unit at Quantico for their review and use.

Attorney General Reno has taken a lead in assuring that we do everything possible to learn from the Mount Carmel incident. As you know, there are "other potential David Koreshs out there..." and the FBI must do it best to insure against other tragic endings.

Sincerely,

63-HQ-1050305-545

William S. Sessions
Director

1 - The Attorney General
1 - Behavioral Science Unit-Quantico (Enclosure)
WSS:[redacted]

b6
b7C

Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. ____
ADD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Insp. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Rec. Mgmt. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Cong. Affs. Off. ____
Off. of EEO ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____

4/20/93

324

Dear Director Sessions,

My husband and I support the FBI's actions in Waco, Texas, yesterday.

Sincerely, b6 b7c

[redacted]

P.S. If possible, may we have an autograph picture of yourself. We will display it proudly in our home.

b6 b7c [redacted]

63-HQ-1050305-546 OPX1

ACK 5/28/93 b6 b7c [redacted]

324

May 28, 1993

[redacted] b6 b7C

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas. The support of the American people means a great deal to all of us in the FBI, and we appreciate your expression of that support.

In response to your request, the Director has asked that I provide you the enclosed photograph with his best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Michael F. Knapp
Inspector-Deputy Chief
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 1
MAY 28 1993
FBI

Enclosure
8 by 10 color photo with Director's autopen signature

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240
NOTE: Due to the common names and the number of possible files listed under each, Bufiles were not reviewed for the purpose of this letter.

63-HQ-1050305-547

Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. ____
ADD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
CJIS ____
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. ____
Insp. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEOA ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
TOM Office ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Office ____

[redacted] (5)

b6 b7C 63-HQ-1050305

b6 b7C

MAIL ROOM [redacted]

[redacted]

324 22

22 May

Michael Knapp

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

I am appaled at your enclosed copy of the letter sent to me in regards to my letter demanding criminal charges against those responsible for the deaths of over 80 individuals at Owaco Texas.

You believe actions by agents were "responsible and reasonable"? My God man, the FBI killed 80 plus people, and you call it reasonable? What is wrong with your brain?

63-HQ-1050305-548

You don't wash a retarded child in a tub of gasoline and then strike a match!! Why was action "delayed" by the FBI until you had 30 mph wind gust? Why was the complex ventilated by armored vehicles? Why was CS_2, an illegal war gas, banned by treaty, employed?

b6
b7C

No ack per Mr. Knapp's notation on reverse side 6-1-93 [redacted]

Agents on scene were well aware of numerous ignition sources inside the buildings such as cookers, and lighting. Agents were also aware of the flammable characteristics of the propellant agent employed with the illegal CS_2 gas.

And you tell me actions by law enforcement, (FBI) were <u>Responsible and Reasonable</u>! Are you brain dead??

How can you, with all conscious, remain employed with such an organization that premeditatedly kills women and children? Please answer.

Respectfully yours [redacted]

b6
b7C

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

MAK 5-24-93

Dick Read
Kiran
5/27/93

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

May 17, 1993

[redacted]

b6
b7c

Dear [redacted]

Your recent communication about the unfortunate ending to the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, has been referred to me for reply. We appreciate your interest in sharing your views and observations with us.

All of us in the FBI share your anguish over the needless loss of life, both Agents and Davidians. Unfortunately, our trained negotiators were unable to convince David Koresh to bring this situation to a peaceful resolution. The events of April 19th were tragic for everyone involved--those who lost their lives, their families and friends, and the dedicated law enforcement officers who have spent time away from their families in unselfish service to our country. As we examine our efforts in the days and months to come, I believe it will be clear that, given the circumstances, the actions taken by law enforcement were responsible and reasonable.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Knapp

Michael F. Knapp
Inspector-Deputy Chief
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

307

[redacted] TX

May 21, 1993

I think you used very poor judgement at Waco. The FBI does not have the respect that it once had. Does death mean anything to you anymore?

From Waco-Con [redacted]

PCK 6/2/93 [redacted]

b6
b7c

63-HQ-1050305-549

[redacted]

b6
b7c

OPCA [redacted]

MAILED 23

JUN 03 1993

63-HQ-1050305

MAIL ROOM

309

May 3, 1993

① Waco, TX

[redacted]

b6
b7c Dear [redacted]

What an inspiration it was to receive your April 27th letter with its strong expression of encouragement and support for the very difficult work done by my FBI there in Waco over those 51 days. You are absolutely right. We did our very best to extract as many of those unfortunate children from The Compound as we could.

I will share your letter with my people here at the Headquarters who walked every step of the way with our people down in Waco and with the four Special Agents in Charge who labored down there and the commander of the Hostage Rescue Team who was with them throughout the siege.

Please accept my thanks for your constant support and convey my regards and best wishes to your congregation.

Sincerely,

63-HQ-1050305-550

William S. Sessions
Director

b6
b7c

WSS [redacted]
1 - Mr. Larry A. Potts
Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535

[redacted] b6 b7c

1 - Mr. Jeffrey J. Jamar
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
San Antonio, Texas

1 - Mr. Bob A. Ricks
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

1 - Mr. Richard S. Swensen
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
New Orleans, Louisiana

1 - Mr. Richard D. Schwein
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
El Paso, Texas

1 - Mr. Richard M. Rogers
Assistant Special Agent in Charge-HRT
Washington Metropolitan Field Office
FBI Academy
Quantico, Virginia 22135

310

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

[redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

One Mad American

[redacted]

Pro-American Pro-Life Pro-American Pro-Housewives Pro-American Pro-Smoking Pro-American Pro-Beef Pro-American Pro-Fur Pro-American Pro-Leather Pro-American Pro-NRA Pro-American Pro-Republican Pro-American Pro-Heterosexual Pro-American Pro-Speech Pro-American Pro-Armed Forces Pro-American Pro-Morality Pro-American Pro-New York Post Pro-American Pro-Limbaugh Pro-America Pro-Capital Punishment Pro-American Pro-Establishment Pro-American Pro-Justice Pro-American Pro-Judeo Christian Pro-American Pro-ATF Pro-American Pro-Police Pro-American Pro-FBI Pro-American Pro-Drug Free Society Pro-American Pro-LA Cops Pro-American Pro-Holocaust Teaching Pro-American Pro-Colorado Pro-American Pro-Barbara Bush Pro-American Pro-Shea Stadium Pro-American Pro-Marge Schott Pro-American Pro-Capitalism Pro-American Pro-Flirtation Pro-American Pro-Ollie North Pro-American

---

May 12, 1993

Re: "Tug-Of-War Over Waco Cult's Land" TX
New York Post, May 12, 1993

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC
20559

Dear Sirs:

The State of Texas, along with the federal government, should acquire the land upon which the first atrocity took place, and about which the second atrocity took place. It should be made into a memorial dedicated to law enforcement officers, the Treasury Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Law Memorial would be a fitting name.

This would be a good inscription. 63-HQ-1050305-551

This is the site where American values were attacked in the most vicious manner, resulting in the deaths of law enforcement agents, followers of a madman, and their children, at the hands of the muderous David Koresh who held American justice hostage for 51 days. Compounding the tragedy, the courageous United States Attorney General and the brave law enforcement bodies came under attack by the justice department, reflecting the moral decadence of society during the period of the 1960s-1990s.

MAILED 6
JUN 07 1993
FBI

Waco-pro forms

[redacted] b6 b7C [redacted]

310

b6
b7C

[redacted]

*) Lea [redacted]

DEAR MR SESSIONS,

I AM WRITING TO SHOW YOU MY SUPPORT DURING THESE TRYING TIMES WITH THE THREAT OF LOSING YOUR JOB AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI. I AM A CRASH FIRE RESCUE FIREMAN AT CHRYSLER TECHNOLOGIES IN WACO, TEXAS. IT WAS AN HONOR TO HELP THE ATF AND FBI AT THE CHRYSLER COMPLEX. WE STAND BEHIND EVERYTHING THE FBI AND ATF DID. THE FBI WAS EXTREMELY COURTIOUS AND FRIENDLY TO THE FIREMEN AND OTHER CHRYSLER EMPLOYEES INVOLVED DURING THE STANDOFF. THE WHOLE STANDOFF WAS A PERSONAL THING TO ME AND MY FAMILY. YOU COULD SEE THE DAVIDIAN COMPOUND IN THE DISTANCE FROM OUR BACK YARD. [redacted] AT HILLCREST HOSPITAL. [redacted] THE WOUNDED DURING THE SHOOTOUT. IT WAS VERY EMOTIONAL FOR HER, AND AFTER THE FIRE AT THE COMPOUND [redacted] ONLY PATIENT HILLCREST RECIEVED. WE WERE BOTH INVOLVFED FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END OF THE STANDOFF. NEITHER ONE OF US FEEL ANYTHING ELSE COULD BE DONE. NO MATTER HOW LONG IT LASTED, THE OUTCOME WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME. VERNON HOWELL WAS INSANE AND HIS FOLLOWERS WERE WEAK PEOPLE TO LET SUCH A MANIAC CONTROL THEIR LIVES AND THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES. HE PREDICTED A FIREY END, AND GOT IT. I DO BELIEVE HE STARTED THE FIRE AND THE FBI AND ATF GAVE HIM MORE THAN ENOUGH CHANCE TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE AND THE CHILDREN. EVERYONE SEEMS TO FORGET THE SIMPLE FACT, HE FIRED UPON THE ATF, WHICH IS AGAINST THE LAW, AND HE HORDED ALL THOSE GUNS, LEGAL AND UNLEGAL. PEACEFUL, CHRISTIAN PEOPLE DO NOT KILL OTHERS. CHRIST NEVER KILLED ANYONE. I DO HOPE JANET RENO, IN HER WISDON, REALIZES THAT YOU DID THE VERY BEST JOB YOU COULD HAVE DONE UNDER THE EXTREMELY TOUCHY SITUATION. THERE WERE NO RIGHT ANSWERS, JUST COMPROMISES. JUST REMEMBER THERE ARE ALOT OF PEOPLE SUPPORTING YOU AND YOUR AGENCY. THANKS FOR BEING THERE WHEN WACO NEEDED YOU.

b6
b7C

63-HQ-1050305-552

[redacted]

MAILED 1

JUN 07 1993

FBI

"Waco-pro" response

Ack 5/3/93

[redacted]

b6
b7C

GOD BLESS YOU!

63-HQ-1050305

Mail Room

OPC [redacted]

b6
b7C

SINCERELY,

b4 b7c

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6
b7C

May 24, 1993

U.S. F.B.I.
Mr. William Sessions, Director
Ninth St & Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Sessions,

Waco TX

My thoughts on the FBI's actions in the Branch Davidian incident, and that of Randall Weaver, are expressed in the 2 page letter to President Clinton (copy enclosed). (The other 4 pages are CC lists) Please read the letter.

May God have mercy on you and the agents involved.

63-HQ-1050305-553

Ack by Waco-Con form 6/3/93

ENCLOSURE

Sincerely

[redacted]

1-encl [redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Ninth St & Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

b6
b7C

MAIL ROOM [redacted]

63-HQ-1050305

[redacted]

May 22, 1993

b6
b7C

The Honorable President of the USA
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: The BATF, FBI, the Randall Weaver Family, Naples, Idaho, and the Branch Davidians, Waco, Texas

Dear Mr. President:

It is appalling that you have appeared to be more concerned about Serbian-Bosnian atrocities than about those perpetrated on certain of our own people by our own government, i.e., the BATF and the FBI.

How could you possibly justify what happened to the Branch Davidian children by recalling that they were, after all, being abused? Whatever kind of abuse those innocent children may have suffered at the hands of their misled parents, or others in the compound: It was of no consequence whatever in comparison to their ultimate abuse, suffering, and deaths; essentially at the hands of our own government; which is supposed to protect the innocent! And I assert that as an adult survivor of child sexual, emotional, verbal, and physical abuse; as well as an officer of the Court in my capacity as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children, or Guardian Ad Litem.

One needn't have a degree in psychology or an active imagination to comprehend the abject terror those children (and adults) must have suffered when the tanks began demolishing the walls of their home and dousing them with tear gas. And whomever or whatever was responsible for the ensuing firestorm: There is simply NO excuse or justification for the initial onslaught and the 50-day seige which led up to it!

The same is true of the Randall Weaver case in Idaho. The killings of Vickie weaver and her son were atrocities, plain and simple. As with David Korresh: The firearms violations charges involved were against Randall Weaver--NOT his wife--NOT his son--and certainly not against the son's dog; the killing of which by lawmen provoked the youngster into firing on them; which resulted in the boy's death from a gunshot in the back as lawmen returned fire.

That Weaver elected to defend his home when it was attacked by unknown assailants; and that he declined to surrender once their identities were established; does NOT justify the BATF's and the FBI's willingness to kill the essentially innocent in their determination to exercise absolute dominion and control over the situation.

63-HQ-1050305-553
ENCLOSURE

Vickie Weaver was shot dead (in the forehead) as she stood with her baby in her arms, in the doorway of her home, by a sniper with a 20-power scope, at 120 yards. It was NO accident!

That such atrocities could, and actually did happen in this country, of all countries (Thomas Jefferson must be spinning in his grave); clearly indicates that almost any family or religeous community could wind up at risk of, or actually being terrorized or destroyed by our own government; depending on their degree of departure or "difference" from what is generally considered the accepted "norm" or mainstream of American life.

Aside from all of the above, the bottom line is that the civil rights of both the innocent and the accused were violated by the BATF and the FBI.

According to Thomas Jefferson, ours was to be a government of laws, not men; with every citizen presumed innocent until proven guilty through due process in a court of law.

It follows then, that any accused person(s); regardless of the nature of the allegations or charges against them; ARE STILL ENTITLED TO THEIR FULL RIGHTS OF PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW; and no less so than any and all innocent or non-accused persons in their immediate proximity!

In view of the BATF's and the FBI's actions toward the Randall Weaver family and the Branch Davidians (and others): Both agencies have become overzealously committed and ambitious to surpass their law enforcement mandate by demonstrating their power to control U.S. citizens and events by engaging in mutually life-threatening confrontations, and the use of excessive, unreasonable force and violence, and terrorism, against the innocent as well as the accused.

I therefore implore you, Mr. Clinton, to use your office as President and your leadership to unite, motivate and mobilize the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our government in an immediate, and speedy, action to prevent any agency or bureau of the federal regulatory structure from perpetrating any further abuse, terrorism, or excessive force or violence on any accused person(s), or on any innocent children or other non-accused adults who may be in their company or vicinity.

Moreover, I implore you to set a corrected and proper example, and a precident for the future, by seeing to it that the persons responsible for the foregoing listed atrocities, civil rights violations, and crimes against the innocent, are prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Yours, for a government of law, NOT men. And in the spirit of the principles believed in and held by our forefathers--
--especially The Honorable Thomas Jefferson,

[redacted] b6 b7C

CC: See following page(s) [redacted]

CC:

Stephen E. Higgens, Director
Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms
650 Massachusetts Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20226

William Sessions, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations
Ninth St. and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Constitution Ave. & Tenth St., N.W.
washington, D.C. 20530

The Hon. Secretary Lloyd Bensten
U.S. Treasury Department
Fifteenth St. & Pennsyvanial Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Hon. George Mitchell, Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Capitol Bldg., S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Robert Dole, Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Capitol Bldg., S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Tom Foley, Speaker, U.S.House
U.S. Capitol Bldg., H-204
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Richard Gephardt, Majority Leader, U.S. House
U.S. Capitol Bldg., H-148
Washington D.C. 20510

The Hon. Robert Michel, Minority Leader, U.S. House
U.S. Capitol Bldg., H-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Senator Larry Craig (Idaho)
302 Hart Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Senator Dirk Kempthorne (Idaho)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

(Continued, Page 4)

CC continued

The Hon. Rep. Larry LaRocco (Idaho)
1117 Longworth House Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Rep. Mike Crapo (Idaho)
437 Cannon House Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C. 20515

Governor of Idaho
The Hon. Cecil D. Andrus
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Lt. Governor
C. L. Butch Otter, President of the Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho, 83720

The Hon. Senator Jerry Twigs,
President Pro Tem, Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83702

The Hon. Joyce McRoberts,
Majority Leader, Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Senator Mary Hartung,
Assistant Majority Leader, Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Senator David Kerrick
Majority Caucus Chairman, Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon.Senator Mary Lou Reed
Minority Leader, Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail
Boise,Idaho 83720

The Hon. Senator Dennis Davis
Assistant Minority Leader, Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Senator Mary Ellen Lloyd
Minority Caucus Chairman, Idaho State Senate
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon Senator Atwell Parry
6985 Baseline Rd.
Melba, Idaho 83641

(Continued page 5)

CC (continued):

The Hon. State Rep. Mike Simpson
State of Idaho, Speaker of the House
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Rep. Bruce Newcomb
Majority Leader, The Idaho House
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Rep. Tom Leorcher
Assistant Majority Leader, The Idaho House
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon Rep. Alan Lance
Majority Caucus Chairman, Idaho House
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Rep. Jim Stoicheff
Minority Leader, Idaho House
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Rep. Pete Black
Assistant Minority Leader, Idaho House
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Rep. Millie Flandrow
Minority Caucus Chairman, Idaho House
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

The Hon. Rep. Delores Crow
203 Eleventh Ave. South Ext.
Nampa, Idaho 83651

ABC EVENING NEWS, NITELINE & WORLD NEWS NOW
ABC-TV
77 W. 66th St.
New York, NY 10023

CBS-TV NEWS
51 W. 52nd St.
New York, NY

NBC EVENING NEWS & NEWS NITESIDE
NBC-TV
30 Rockeffeller Plaza
New York, NY 10010

(Continued page 6.)

CC (continued):

MACNEIL- LEHRER NEWSHOUR &
PBS RADIO NEWS
PBS
483 L'Enfant Plaza, West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Mr. Lou Boccardi, Gen. Mgr.
The Associated Press
50 Rockefeller Center
New York, NY 10020

Various TV & Radio TalknShow Hosts too numerous to list

Various interested individuals

Mr. Randall Weaver
C/O Federal Court House
Boise, Idaho

[redacted]

b6
b7C 324

April 29, 1993

MR. WILLIAM STEELE SESSIONS
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NINTH ST. AND PENNSYLVANIA AVE.
WASHINGTON, DC 20535

DEAR MR. SESSIONS, OWaco TX

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE KORESH COMPOUND HEARINGS ON CNN. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THIS COUNTRY DOESN'T HAVE AN ENTRANCE EXAM BEFORE YOU CAN ASSUME YOUR DUTIES AS AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. HOW THEY ASSEMBLE THE QUANTITY OF STUPID QUESTIONS IS BEYOND ME.

WHEN THEY MENTIONED ELLIOTT NESS THEY REACHED AN ALL TIME LOW IN MY OPINION. I GUESS YOUR AGENTS SHOULD HAVE KNOCKED ON THE DOOR TO SEE IF EVERYONE INSIDE NEEDED ANYTHING. THEN OFFERED ALL OF THEM SOME HOME MADE COOKIES AND ICECREAM.

WAS THIS NOT THE GROUP WHO KILLED FOUR GOVERNMENT AGENTS. WAS THIS NOT THE GROUP, WHO YOU GAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY, TO LEAVE THE COMPOUND IN A PEACEFUL MANNER. WERE THEY NOT ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. WERE THEY NOT THE "BAD GUYS"

I KNOW NO ONE IN YOUR ORGANIZATION, ANTICIPATED THE END RESULT OF YOUR FORCED ENTRY INTO THE COMPOUND. HOWEVER TRAGIC THE LOSS OF CHILDREN MAY BE, YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.

WE ARE ALL BEHIND YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE. KEEP UP THE AGGRESSIVE GOOD WORK. WITHOUT THE FBI, WHERE WOULD THIS COUNTRY BE.

SINCERELY,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

63 Hq-1050305-554 CESS

OPCA [redacted]

b6
b7C

ack
undated (2 yped 5/27/93)

[redacted]

signed 6/4/93

JUN 4 1993

[redacted] b6 b7C

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your recent letter of support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas.

The FBI relies upon the support of the American people for what it does, and I appreciate your expression of that support.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions
Director

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

b6 b7C

NOTE: Letter requested by the Director. [redacted] is not identifiable in Bufiles.

MAILED 26 JUN 8 1993

[redacted] (5)

63-HQ-1050305-535

APPROVED: [redacted]

Director
Dep. Dir.
ADD-Adm.
ADD-Inv.

Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Crim. Jus. Info. Servs.
Ident.
Info. Mgmt.

Inspection
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training

Off. of EEO Affs.
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.
TOM Off.

Dep. Dir.
ADD Adm.
ADD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
CJIS
Ident.
Info. Mgmt.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Off. of EEOA
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ✓
TOM Office
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

MAIL ROOM

b6 b7C

63-HQ-1050305

[redacted]

[redacted]

May 28, 1993

324

Honorable Judge William S. Sessions
9th Street and Pennslyvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Judge Sessions,

D Waco TX

I am writing to you in regards to the David Koresh, Wacco stand off. It was an extremely tense situation and I think that you handled it very well. It is too bad that so many people had to die and it must be hard for you and your men to see innocent people suffer, especially the children. I believe that that could have been avoided if you took action a little sooner.

51 days is an aextremely long time to be playing with people's lives. I read in the newspaper that you contemplated the idea of using a sniper to take out Koresh. Why you didn't do this?

I realize that it was a difficult decision, with many factors to be taken into consideration, to make. Once again I would like to congratulate you and your men on ending the conflict in Wacco.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

④ [redacted]

63-HQ-1050305-556

JUN 8 1993

Judge William Sessions
9th St. & Pennslyvania Ave NW
Washington, DC. 20535

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

[redacted]

6/8/93

[redacted]

Mail Room

63-HQ-1050305

May 10, 1993

324

[redacted] b6 b7C

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Attorney General Reno:

This letter is to register my support for you and to commend your professional performance during your testimony before the Congressional Committee about the incident at the Branch Davidian Compound in Waco, Texas. I witnessed your excellent response to the apparent intended intimidation by some of the panelists. Your steadfast stance drew me to your defense and I was proud of the Attorney General of the United States.

The reasons you cited for your decision to authorize the FBI to bring the holdout to a close made good sense. I profoundly regret the innocent children had their young lives terminated at the hands of those maniacal, degenerated social dropouts and misfits.

I know the children's welfare was foremost among your concerns as the FBI painstakingly strategized an appropriate final response to bring the volatile incident to a successful conclusion.

I also know that you and the FBI never, at any time, lost sight of the tragic fact that four young ATF Agents were mercilessly murdered by the same fanatics who we now know murdered the children. While it was essential the responsibles for murdering the agents be brought to justice, in my opinion, the callousness of the acts exacerbated the precariousness of the children's safety with each passing day.

63-HQ-1050305-557

Ack undated (Typed 5/27/93

[redacted]

OPCA [redacted]

signed 6-1-93

b6 b7C

I applaud the performance of the FBI throughout the duration and including the final stages of the event. Every agent is to be commended for his or her persistent restraint and their determination to rescue the children without further loss of life.

Madam Attorney General, the world now knows what ultimately happened on that final day at the compound and I am grieved by the unwarranted attacks upon your decision to authorize the FBI to deploy their final option.

Ours is a society where many have a propensity to be expert "Monday morning quarterbacks." The truth of the matter is, most of those same critics never played the game of football! When one adds political demagoguery to the equation, it is easy to understand how American Institutions, such as the FBI, would have reason to become demoralized.

However, I suggest those pundits would have indicted yours and the FBIs efforts regardless of the outcome at the compound. I think most Americans believe in our precious liberties and understand our system can only survive if we remain a Nation of Laws. Therefore, I believe the majority of our citizens understand, as did I, the tremendous burden that was imposed upon you on that fateful day.

I commend and thank you and the FBI for "staying the course." Please keep the faith because there will be other events which will require tough decisions and your judgement must not become chilled because of criticism from "self-imposed experts," "pontificating politicians," and a news media that, at times, reflects zealotry in its reporting.

Thank you for volunteering to serve our country. You and the FBI are a credit to the criminal justice system. I wish you every success in the future.

Sincerely,

b6
b7C

[redacted]

bc: The Honorable William Sessions
Mr. Richard Ross, S.A.C., Sacramento
Mr. Richard Held, S.A.C., San Francisco

JUN 7 1993

324

[redacted] b6 b7C

Dear [redacted]

Many thanks for furnishing me a copy of your letter to Attorney General Reno in which you express strong support for the FBI's handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas.

The men and women of the FBI rely upon the support of the American people and the law enforcement community for what we do, and I appreciate your sharing your support of our actions with the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions
Director

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Collingwood (Room 7240)

MAILED 26
JUN 10 1993

NOTE: Correspondent appears to be identical with [redacted] whom the Director recently wrote to thank for commending a number of Agents of our Sacramento Office for assistance in connection with [redacted] Above letter requested by the Director. b6 b7C

[redacted] (5)

63-HQ-1050305-558

63-HQ-1050305

b6 b7C

APPROVED:

Director
Dep. Dir.
ADD-Adm.
ADD-Inv.

Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Crim. Jus. Info. Servs.
Ident
Info. Mgmt.

Inspection
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training

Off. of EEO Affs.
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.
TOM Unit

Dep. Dir.
ADD Adm.
ADD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
CJIS
Ident
Info. Mgmt.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Off. of EEOA
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.
TOM Office
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

MAIL ROOM

310

[redacted]

April 22, 1993

[redacted]

b6
b7C

The Honorable William S. Sessions
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
10 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C., 20535

Dear Judge Sessions,

① Waco TX

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the photograph I received recently from my visit with you on December 9, 1992. You were very kind to take time out of your busy schedule to accommodate a request from [redacted] to meet with us on such short notice. [redacted] being familiar with my law enforcement background, knew that meeting you would be an honor that I will always remember.

On another note, I join with the vast majority of responsible Americans in expressing support to you and the FBI for the manner in which you managed the standoff in Waco. You displayed incredible restraint and patience during the prolonged negotiation period and the subsequent action taken was appropriate and justified. It is unfortunate that the media is second guessing the actions of law enforcement professionals who risked their lives in attempts to save some of the victims of this tragedy. They would better serve the public by reporting the facts of the incident and condemning the leader of the cult for instigating this mass suicide/murder.

I wish you all the best in the future and applaud you for the outstanding service you have provided to our country as Director of the FBI.

b6
b7C

Sincerely,

[redacted]

63-HQ-1050305-559

USS x (E)

OR x/ [redacted]

b6
b7C

ACC
Updated ("typed 5/20/93")

216

JUN 4 1993

b6
b7C

[redacted]

Dear Mr. [redacted]

I enjoyed meeting you last December and am glad you received the photograph taken as a memento of that visit.

I also want to thank you for your words of support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas. The FBI relies upon the support of the American people for what it does, and I appreciate your expression of that support.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions
Director

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

NOTE: [redacted] met the Director on December 9, 1992.

[redacted] (5)

63-HQ-1050305-560

MAILED 26
JUN 8 1993
FBI

b6
b1C

APPROVED:
Director
Dep. Dir.
Assoc. Dir.
Adm. Dir.
ADD-Inv.

Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Crim. Jus. Info. Serv.
Ident.
Info. Mgmt.

Inspection
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Tech. Serv.
Training

Off. of EEO Affs.
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.
TOM Off.

Dep. Dir.
ADD Adm.
ADD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
CJIS
Ident.
Info. Mgmt.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Off. of EEOA
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.
TOM Office
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

FBI
RECEIVED
MAIL ROOM

b6
b7C

63-HQ-1050305-561
562
563
564
565
566
567

CHANGED TO 89B-SA-38851-407X8
- 442X2
- 407X2
- 407X3
- 407X6
- 407X7
- 442X5

302

7-19-94

310

b6
b7c [redacted] 15 p 35

DEAR MR. SESSIONS

I HAVE BECOME VERY INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME OF SITUATION IN WACO TEXAS. I THINK THAT THE FBI DID A GREAT JOB ONCE THEY GOT INVOLVED. MY QUESTION IS WHY DIDN'T THE FBI GO IN TO DELIVER THE WARRENT IN THE FIRST PLACE? IT SEEMS THAT THE BATF AGENTS WERE DETERMINED TO GO IN WITH GUNS BLAZING & PUT ON A GOOD SHOW FOR THE MEDIA. I REALIZE THAT YOU ARE A BUSY MAN BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE

63-HQ-1050305-568

SINCERELY

b6
b7c

[redacted]

[redacted]

PITTSBURGH, PA 152
PM
26 MAY
1993

acr
6-16-93

[redacted]

b6
b7c

OPCA [redacted]

310

June 16, 1993

[redacted]

b6
b7C

Dear [redacted]

Your recent communication has been received, and I want to thank you for your praise of the FBI's investigative efforts during the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

In response to your question about why the FBI did not execute the initial arrest and search warrants at the Branch Davidian compound, these warrants were the result of an investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF). That agency has primary responsibility for investigating Federal firearms violations. The FBI only became involved in the situation in Waco because Federal officers were killed, a violation of Federal law that falls within our investigative jurisdiction.

Thank you for sharing your observations with us and for giving the FBI an opportunity to respond.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Michael F. Knapp
Inspector-Deputy Chief
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

JUN 16 1993 FBI

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Collingwood (Room 7240)
63-HQ-1050305

63-HQ-1050305-569

NOTE: Bufiles checked.

[redacted] (5)

b6
b7C

63-HQ-1050305

b6
b7C [redacted]

MAIL ROOM

310

b6
b7c [redacted]

May 1, 1993

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Director,

Waco TX

I am writing you in regards to an article that appeared in a local newspaper in the Los Angeles, California area regarding the ban on tear gas, namely the CS gas. The article states in the first paragraph that the gas is the "safest riot-control agent known to exist" but it will be banned from warfare. The article further states it will be allowed for "domestic use".

The last paragraph states the issue arose due to the gas being used on the Branch Davidian cult. The concern was whether or not children and/or members may have been incapacitated or killed by the CS that was used.

In my opinion, comparing the Branch Davidian cult to warfare is not a fair comparison. The Davidian cult was an issue in itself and a sacrifice had to be made. The FBI waited too long before using the CS gas. The children in the cult were used by their leader as a means to ward off surrender or capture. The children would not have been allowed to leave and would have been sacrificed in a different manner had the gas not been used. On the other hand using the gas during war time to immobilize the enemy, would be justified. There are many instances when the use of CS gas or "riot-control agent" is the only means law enforcement agencies have to control the crowds. This would save lives and keep injuries to a minimum. Had the CS gas been used during the Los Angeles riots, the situation would have been under control much sooner.

Representatives at the Chemical Weapons Convention contradicted themselves by stating the gas was acceptable for domestic use, but not for warfare.

Please respond in writing as to why and how the decision was made to use it domestically but ban it for warfare. Your immediate response would be appreciated.

63-HQ-1050305-570

Respectfully,

[redacted]

ack
6/14/93

[redacted]

MAIL ROOM

b6
b7c

OPCA

[redacted]

310

June 14, 1993

[redacted] b6 b7C

Dear [redacted]

Your May 1st letter has been referred to me for reply. We appreciate your interest in sharing your observations about the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, and the use of CS gas.

Since the FBI was not involved in the decision to ban CS gas for use in warfare, it would not be appropriate for me to comment regarding it. You may wish to contact the United Nations, 799 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York 10017, since I understand this decision was made at a United Nations Conference on Disarmament.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Michael F. Knapp
Inspector-Deputy Chief
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 6
JUN 14 1993

1 - Mr. Collingwood (Room 7240)
1 - Mr. Potts (Room 5012)
1 - [redacted] (Room 5214) - Enclosure
63-HQ-1050305

b6 b7C

NOTE: Bufiles checked. Reply coordinated with SSA [redacted] Domestic Terrorism Unit, CID.

63-HQ-1050305-571

[redacted] (6)

b6 b7C

Dep. Dir.
DD Adm.
DD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
CJIS
Ident.
Info. Mgmt.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Off. of EEOA
Off. Liaison
Int. Affs.
Off. of Public
Cong. Affs.
OM Office
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

[redacted]

JUN 14 3 55 PM '93

MAIL ROOM

OPCA/FBI
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

AWT [redacted]

b6 b7C [redacted]

PETA
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
P.O. BOX 42516
WASHINGTON DC
20015-0516
(301) 770 - PETA
FAX (301) 770 - 8969

April 21, 1993

Mr. William Sessions, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations
10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Mr. Sessions,

Our office has been deluged with complaints about reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigations played audio tapes of rabbits screaming as they were being slaughtered in an attempt to annoy the fugitives at David Koresh's compound in Waco, Texas. We share our members' concerns that the Bureau acted in poor taste when playing these tapes, relegating the dying screams of suffering animals to the status of an annoying sound.

Judging by the calls we are receiving, members of the public would like to see some remedial gesture from the Bureau. We leave it to you as to what this might entail but suggest either an apology at a press conference, a letter addressed to our organization that could be sent to complainants, or a public service announcement on vegetarianism.

We have also received reports that the FBI claims to have killed all of the dogs at the compound in Waco. Were the animals intentionally killed, and, if so, how was that done?

We deeply appreciate your time and attention to these matters. On behalf of our more than 375,000 members, may we please hear from you soon about them?

63-HQ-1050305-572

b6 b7C

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Cruelty Caseworker

b6 b7C

ACK 6/17/93

[redacted]

310

June 17, 1993

[redacted]
Cruelty Caseworker
People for the Ethical Treatment
of Animals
Post Office Box 42516
Washington, D.C. 20015-0516

b6
b7c

Dear [redacted]

This is in response to your recent letter to Director Sessions which raised several issues concerning the standoff involving the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

Though I appreciate the concerns you raised, it would be inappropriate for me to discuss the investigative or operational techniques the FBI or other law enforcement agencies employed in Waco. Please understand that the FBI's paramount purpose at Waco was to bring about a safe and peaceful resolution to the conflict. Let me assure you that the FBI would never advocate or condone the inhumane treatment of animals.

I appreciate your taking the time to advise the FBI of the concerns expressed by your membership.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Michael F. Knapp
Inspector-Deputy Chief
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 14
JUN 17 1993
FBI

Dep. Dir.
ADD Adm.
ADD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
CJIS
Ident.
Info. Mgnt.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Off. of EEOA
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.
TOM Office
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
1 - [redacted] (Room 5042)
1 - Mr. Collingwood (Room 7240)
63-HQ-1050305
NOTE: Bufiles checked.

63-HQ-1050305-573

[redacted] (6) [redacted]

b6
b7c

OWT

b6
b7c

[redacted]

MAIL ROOM
OPCA/FBI
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

310

PHIL GRAMM
TEXAS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510-4302

May 5, 1993

John E. Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Ninth and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Inspector Collingwood:

My constituent has contacted me regarding the situation involving the Branch Davidian sect near Waco, TX. I am forwarding the constituent's correspondence for your consideration.

Yours respectfully,

PHIL GRAMM
United States Senator

PG:mlj

63-HQ-1050305-574

Final Ltr 6/2/93 [redacted]

b6
b7c

OPCA/[redacted]

Interim response dated 5-13-93 CAO

IBBM INDEPENDENT BAPTIST BILLBOARD MISSIC.

P.O. Box 124
DYER, INDIANA 46311
1-800-824-6347
ACTS 17:17

BRENT ANDERSON - TREAS.
J. H. MONTGOMERY - ASST. TREAS.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LEE ROBERSON
JACK HYLES
RAYMOND BARBER
BOB SMITH
JOHN WATERS
HAROLD SIGHTLER
G. K. CHAPMAN

April 19, 1993

The Honorable Phil Gramm
370 Russell
Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D. C., 20510

Dear Senator Gramm:

On the third day of the Waco Davidian Cult situation, I was put in contact with negotiators for the FBI. Over the following weeks, four Baylor Religion Professors an[redacted] of Arazona contacted the FBI, telling them to hear my proposals. I eventually was put through to speak with the Chief negotiator and still others.

b6
b7C

In my talks with negotiators, I sensed a real philosophical ignorace of how to deal with ultrareligious groups. I told them that Koresh believed in "Equivocation." The suicide that we saw on television, I warned the FBI of, not 1 minute before the smoke started.

I would like you to ensure that I am given the opportunity to testify to Congress when it comes time to re-evaluate FBI negotiation tactics with ultrareligious groups.

Please respond.

Most respectfully,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

63-HQ-1050[illegible]-574

PHIL GRAMM
TEXAS

317

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510-4302

May 5, 1993

John E. Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Ninth and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Inspector Collingwood:

My constituent has contacted me regarding the situation involving the Branch Davidian sect near Waco. I am forwarding the constituent's correspondence for your consideration.

Yours respectfully,

PHIL GRAMM
United States Senator

PG:mlj

1 - ENCLOSURE

63-HQ-1050305-575

b6
b7C

Final Ack 6/2/93

b6
b7C

Interim response dated 5-13-93

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6
b7C

April 20, 1993

Senator Phil Gramm
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gramm,

This is to offer my services as an investigative consultant in the aftermath of the Branch Davidian situation in Waco. I'm sure that this situation will raise a number of important issues. This incident demonstrates that as a matter of public trust, there is reason for concern in the matters such as this and the competence of agencies chartered deal with them.

If the operation in Waco had been submitted to any kind of rational review prior to execution, it would have been modified significantly. The ATF seemed to show a singular lack of appreciation for the very issues on which they based the need for action in the first place, which, we are made to understand, was the acquisition and manufacture of illegal high-powered weapons, which in the hands of 100 religious cultists, might be a threat to society.

As a result, not only have innocents been killed, but society and its agencies were made to dance to David Koresh's tune.

I am a former Navy SEAL officer. I have an independent consulting practice. Normally, I concern myself with technical and marketing matters, but, I have become increasingly concerned with social matters have a professional contribution to make in situations such as this. I wish to use my military experience and years of service in the community to help avoid repeating situations such as Waco. In addition, I am pursuing an MA degree in Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University. I graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1961.

Please let me know how I may be of service.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

63-HQ-1050305-575

310

June 2, 1993

Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4302

Dear Senator Gramm:

I am writing in further response to your May 5th inquiries on behalf of two constituents who, it appears, wish to aid in a congressional study of the handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas. You may, therefore, wish to refer their requests to the House Committee on the Judiciary. I am returning their letters to you.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Charles E. Mandigo
Legislative Counsel
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 14
JUN 2 1993
FBI

Enclosures (2)

63-HQ-1050305-576

1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosures (4)
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240
1 - Congressional Affairs Office

NOTE: Above response recommended by SSA Mandigo, OPCA.

[redacted] (9)

b6
b7c

63-HQ-1050305

b6
b7c

Dep. Dir.
ADD Adm.
ADD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
CJIS
Ident.
Info. Mgmt.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Off. of EEOA
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.
TOM Office
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

MAIL ROOM

APPROVED:

Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Intell.
Legal Coun.
Inspection
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Off. of EEO Affs.
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs.
Off. of Public

310

2

b6
b7c

Dear Sirs; [redacted]

I'm writing a late response to the incident in Waco Tx. with David Koresh and his followers.

I just wanted you to know that I'm one citizen of the United States of America who is tired of hearing the unjustified criticism of the men and women of the F.B.I.

That terrible situation and it's tragic ending was the fault of David Koresh. If he would have been doing the Lords will he would've surrendered and worked things out in a peacefull manner for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. (for the Bible tells us in [redacted]

63-HQ-1050305-577

63-HQ-1050305

MAIL ROOM

Form WACO-PRO

ACK 6/22/93

[redacted]

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

Roman chapter 13. to behave and be in subjection to the authorities over us), and for the sake and safety of his followers.

I am a christian and I am proud of the men and women of the F.B.I. who put their lives on the line to protect the citizens of the United States.

You should all be rewarded for your courage and service to your country, and I am one christian who will continue praying for your safety and your success.

Form Pro Ack

God Bless You All!

63-1050305

With many thanks

Dear [redacted]

[redacted]

CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
OPCA/FBI
JUN 18 11 42 AM '93
REC'D MAIL ROOM
FBI
JUN 1
66
b7C
OPCA

310

[redacted] 30

b6
b7C

[redacted]

11 June 1993

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Director William S. Sessions
Washington, DC 20500

Director:

Waco TX

I am appalled by your use of public opinion and the content of telephone calls to determine that the actions of the United States Government (and the FBI) in the Koresch case were correct, proper, and moral (your letter, Time magazine June 14, 1993, page 7).

You did not receive a comment from me as I am not in the habit of expressing my anger, disbelief, and disgust to the perpetrators of crimes. I have however, expressed earlier my opinion to President Clinton and to my Congressional delegation.

In brief, the United States Government (Justice Department, CAN, FBI, and BATF) acted in a shameful way by ignoring the Constitutional protection afforded citizens, by hiding the indictment, by acting as jury in determining guilt, by attacking and killing them, and then by destroying all the evidence. Not a proud day.

In replacing the power of the jury with your judgement, you have demonstrated your disdain for the single body that protects us from a tyrant. You have done a monstrous dis-service to the citizens of the United States.

Sincerely/

[redacted]

b6
b7C

MAILED 25
JUN 24 1993
FBI

Form
WACO Cm

63-HQ-1050305-578

b6 63-HQ-1050305

b7C

uk
1/23/93

[redacted]

b6
b7C

Mail Rm [redacted]

RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
313 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103
(202) 224-5744

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510-0103

STATE OFFICES:
1900 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
321 FEDERAL BUILDING
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
(205) 731-1384
HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
1000 GLENN HEARN BOULEVARD
BOX 20127
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35824
(205) 772-0460
113 ST. JOSEPH STREET
438 U.S. COURTHOUSE
MOBILE, AL 36602
(205) 694-4164
15 LEE STREET
828A U.S. COURTHOUSE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
(205) 832-7303
1118 GREENSBORO AVENUE
ROOM 240 U.S. COURTHOUSE
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401
(205) 759-5047

May 14, 1993

324

Mr. John E. Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
9th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Collingwood:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I received from several constituents of mine.

Waco TX

Any information you may have regarding this matter would be appreciated in order that I may be able to respond to my constituents' inquiry. PLEASE REPLY, IN DUPLICATE, TO THE ATTENTION OF MY STAFF MEMBER, HOPE GREEN.

Thank you for your prompt assistance to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Shelby

Richard Shelby

RCS/vhs
Enclosure

1 ENCLOSURE

63-HQ-1050305-579

Final reply 6/17/93.
[redacted]
Interim response dated 6-18-93

b6
b7C

b6
b7C
OPCA
[redacted]

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

93 APR 27 AM 9:54

Dear Senator Shelby:

I cannot believe that *American citizens* have been *incinerated* alive while our leaders have stood bald faced before the American public and said, "We stand behind our decision."

How on earth can anyone stand beside the decision to kill *American Citizens*? Attorney Reno said, "We were told..." several times in her defense statements on the news. Can it be that she let someone else tell her how CS worked and did not personally experience it to determine the feasibility of the gas?

Today I heard Vietnam veterans discussing this gas, which they said was used in Nam as a WAR GAS; they said that any Vietnam veteran knew that this gas was flammable and that it caused total incapacitation! How could the people have surrendered?

Why didn't someone bother to investigate this? Why wasn't it available to FBI and Attorney Generals when it was available to the average combat soldier from Vietnam? Are we going to continue to have these kinds of HOLOCAUSTS because Reno "is told" the wrong information.

I am horrified!!!

Reno also said repeatedly that all we can do in future is try to prevent these cults from being able to do this type of thing again.

(1) Is she presuming to start some type of religious persecution?

(2) Does she plan to "be told" about other religious groups? (Pardon me if I sound frightened, but as a Presbyterian who firmly believes in religious freedom, her treatment of the Branch Devedians scares me.)

(3) Will she next ride up in a CS tank to prevent my religious freedom?

Rightly or wrongly, I had personally felt that the whole fiasco was President Clinton's political strategy to make Christians look bad to the nation because he was not popular in Christian circles during the election campaign. I had accepted that he had the right to drag this thing out indefinitely as people mocked David Koresh, that poor foolish man, for saying he was Christ; I could even accept the *ridiculous* news coverage, which took every opportunity to ridicule Christian beliefs and mock my dear Savior, *who is not David Koresh*. Mr. Clinton did nothing personally to relieve this situation.

But I cannot and will not sit idly while American citizens are butchered by incompetence and their butchers boast for the world to see, hinting all the time at further religious persecution. Mockery and death are two different things. Who is next? If these people can be

63-HQ-1050305-579

ENCLOSURE

slaughter for so small a thing, who is safe?

Most importantly why is <u>no one</u> grieving over the loss of those little children?

June 17, 1993

324

Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510-0103

Dear Senator Shelby:

This is in further response to your May 14th inquiry on behalf of several of your constituents who wrote about the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. I can assure your constituents that the FBI did everything possible to resolve the Waco matter without the further loss of life.

The letter you enclosed particularly expressed concern about the use of CS gas. CS gas has been used by law enforcement as a riot control agent for over 40 years, and there are no documented deaths attributed to it.

Contrary to some reports, CS gas is an irritant which does not totally incapacitate but usually causes people to flee. It is ten times safer than the next-best alternative irritant and is one of the most extensively studied riot-control agents, having been tested as extensively as chemicals which are intended for pharmaceutical use. Experts in toxicology and the effects of CS gas on humans were consulted before it was used in Waco.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the concerns of your constituents. I believe that as our actions are examined over the next weeks and months, the vast majority of our citizens will also conclude that the actions of the Government, given the circumstances, were reasonable and responsible.

Sincerely yours,

151

Charles E. Mandigo
Legislative Counsel
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 14
JUN 17 1993
FBI

Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. 1
ADD Inv. 1
Asst. Dir.: 1
Adm. Servs. 1
Crim. Inv. ____
CJIS 1
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. 1
Insp. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEOA ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
TOM Office ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Office ____

- SAC, San Antonio - Enclosures (2)
- Mr. Collingwood (Room 7240)
- Mr. Potts (Room 5012)
- [redacted] (Room 5214) - Enclosures (2)
- Congressional Affairs Office (Room 7240)

63-HQ-1050305-580

NOTE: Bufiles checked. Reply regarding CS gas provided by SSA [redacted] Domestic Terrorism Unit, CID.

b6 b7c

[redacted] (10)

APPROVED:

Director ____
Dep. Dir. ____
ADD-Adm. ____
ADD-Inv. ____
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Crim. Jus. Info. Servs. ____
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEO Affs. ____
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
Off. of Int. Affs. ____

[redacted]

Just b6 b7c

From the desk of
Ray Wannall

June 10, 1993

John:

Waco TX

On May 19th I advised you that the write-up on the Waco situation would be carried in publications of two national intelligence organizations. The current issue of *Periscope*, newsletter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, which numbers among its members many former FBI Agents, is enclosed. The Waco write-up is on Page 3.

When the remaining write-up is received from the National Intelligence and Counterintelligence Association, I'll send it to you. Incidentally, there are numerous former Agents in NICA also.

FYI

Ray

Enc.

ENCLOSURE

63-HQ-1050305-581

RECEIVED

The Tragedy At Waco

W. Raymond Wannall, Retired Assistant Director of the FBI

Some self-righteous critics with 20/20 hindsight, in assessing the Waco, Texas, tragedy, have been shooting from the hip without raising their guns to eye level and properly aligning the sights.

Certain facts are well established:

1. There were outstanding arrest warrants charging Vernon Howell, aka David Koresh, and other occupants of the Branch Davidian compound with the killing of four ATF agents.

2. He and others had illegally converted semi-automatic weapons into machine guns and also possessed 50-caliber rifles having an effective range of 3,000 yards. This created a continuing threat to public safety posed by the presence on the outer perimeter not only of law-enforcement personnel but also vigilante groups and curiosity seekers.

3. Conditions within the compound after 51 days of seige foretold of illness and pestilence threatening the lives of the children. There were no toilets, shower facilities, sewers or drains. Sanitary conditions had severly deteriorated with the presence of dead bodies in addition to the deposit of human waste.

4. Despite all efforts, arbitrators had not been able to negotiate successfully a single item with Koresh. At no point had he kept his word that he and others would surrender.

5. On April 9th and 10th Koresh provided to the FBI two letters, generally threatening in tone, stating, in part, "I forewarn you the Lake Waco area of old Mount Carmel will be terribly shaken. The waters of the lake will be emptied through the broken damn [sic]. The heavens are calling you to judgment."

6. A psycholinguist, a psychiatrist, and a member of the FBI's Behavorial Science staff analyzed these letters and concluded that Koresh evidenced "all the hallmarks of rampant, morbidly virulent paranoia," that he had no intention of giving up but, in fact, might be contemplating a counter-assault.

Concern for the lives and welfare of the children in the compound was the FBI's first consideration. Koresh had been provided medical equipment, milk and food for them. Fear that they might be used as shields during an attempted mass breakout by cult members influenced the planning to bring a halt to the seige and hostage situation.

It was readily apparent that allowing the status quo to remain would not lead to the peaceful surrender of Koresh and his followers and eliminate the risk to the safety of the children, the public at large, or the law-enforcement personnel at the scene.

After checking with experts and studies on various non-lethal irritants, the FBI concluded that the introduction into the compound of teargas (CS gas) at incremental stages should induce residents to leave with the least possible risk of harm. This procedure was authorized by the Attorney General and concurred in by the President.

Koresh's mental condition provided him with a shield of imagined invulnerability and unmitigated power. His charismatic appeal to members of his cult was overwhelming to the extent that they gave their daughters, some as young as twelve, to fulfill his sex urges and their lives to fulfill his destiny.

As for the FBI, for more than seven weeks it devoted in excess of 200 agents to its efforts to save Koresh and his sect of religious extremists. Its entire Hostage Rescue Team was committed to the task while volatile situations occuring in other parts of the country were being addressed by less well trained and experienced tactical teams. With under 10,000 Special Agents (as compared with more than 26,850 police officers in New York City alone) the Bureau has responsibilities nation-wide for 281 different Federal crimes and investigative matters. How many of these were neglected during its commitment in Waco is unknown. But sheer logic dictated that the situation there required resolution, and plans for it were carefully developed and carried out. It is so easy to second guess.

For its handling of the problem under the most frustrating of conditions, the Bureau deserves the support of the public and the media.

With sympathy to
the families of

Richard E. Dorey
AFIO Board of Directors

LTG Marshall S. Carter, USA(Ret)

COL William R. Culmer, AUS(Ret)

CPT Mallory F. Edgar, USA(Ret)

Mr. Arthur R. Garvin
President, AFIO New Mexico Chapter

Mr. Chet L. Gonce

Mr. Ari M. Kovacevich

Mr. Harrison Lee

Mr. Andrew J. Mills

Mr. Nino John Lo Schiavo

COL A. F. S. MacKenzie, USA(Ret)

34

July 23, 1993

Mr. W. Raymond Wannall

b6
b7C

[redacted]

Dear Ray:

Thank you for sending me the recent "Newsletter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers" which featured your article supporting the FBI's actions in Waco.

You have been most effective in "getting the word out" through your many venues and I truly appreciate and am grateful for your continuing efforts.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 22
JUN 28 1993

1 - Mr. Collingwood - detached
1 - Mr. Knapp
3 - Mr. Mandigo - detached
1 - [redacted] (10)

63-HQ-1050305-582

Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. ____
ADD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Inspec. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Res. Mgmt. ____
Tech. Serv. ____
Training ____
Cong. Affs. Off. ____
Off. of EEO ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public Affs. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

APPROVED:
Director ____
Dep. Dir. ____
ADD-Adm. ____
ADD-Inv. ____
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Crim. Jus. Info. Serv. ____
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Serv. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEO Affs. ____
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
TOM Sec. ____

b6
b7C

MAIL ROOM [redacted]

Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. ____
ADD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
CJIS ____
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. ____
Insp. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEOA ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
TOM Office ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Office ____

June 15, 199

324

Director Janet Reno
Atty. Gen. Ofc.
10th & Constitution Ave N.W.
Wash. D.C., 20530

WACO TX

Dear Ms. Reno;

You speak with a forked tongue. A short time ago, I saw & heard you state on T.V. that you were going to vigorously protect the citizens civil rights. Why didn't you protect the Branch Dividian's civil rights? I can't believe you would give the order for such a dastardly act to storm the compound. I believe the D.A.F.T. dept. should be disbanded. There is no further need for them. President Clinton, Sec. Lloyd Benson, Director Sessions and you should be held accountable for this monstrous deed.

I watched the events unfold on TV and what I saw and what you officials have released are two different accounts. Director Sessions said that the officers acted at all times in a sympathetic and humane manner, and yet, as the compound was rammed by tanks and burst in flames, I heard the law officers laugh and clap their hands and say, "Texas Bar-B-Q." What does that sound like to you? Disgusting!

63-HQ-1050305-583

The victims are not alive to state their side of the story, so the blood of these people is on your hands. I wonder how you can sleep at night?

Form 1-WACO

ACK 6/29/93

b6 b7C

MAIL ROOM

63-HQ-1050305

(see)

OPCA
b6 b7C

Sincerely

[redacted]

b6
b7C

CC: Sec. Lloyd Bentsen
Pres. Bill Clinton
Director Wm. Sessions
Sen. Phil Graham
Cong. Sam Johnson
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutcheson

Dear [redacted]

1893

Director Wm. Sessions
Federal Bureau of Investigation
9th & Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Wash. DC, 20535

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F.B.I.
JUN 22 7 24 AM '93

CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
OPCA/FBI
Jun 23 8 23 AM '93

Rec'd
OCA-Comm Sec
6/18/93

310

[redacted] b6 b7c

[redacted]

June 7th. 1993

Director William Sessions
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S.Justice Department
Washington D.C.
20510

Dear Director Sessions:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a brilliantly written editorial from Reason Magazine.

It's content is something we can all take to heart after the scurrilous accounts of the Waco tragedy issued by both the BTAF and the FBI.

These homicides commited by your agency clearly illustrates to the American citizen and all the world. That agencies of the U.S.Government are clearly out of control and are responsible only to themselves.

This is most certainly an ugly blot on American history and surely condemns your agency as a homicidal poorly administered arm of American justice.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

enc:

b6
b7C 1- ENCLOSURE

63-HQ-1050305-584

No ack warranted.
See Bufile 63-HQ-1050305-387.
[redacted] was sent a letter dated 5/17/93 acknowledging his earlier, similar complaint of 4/23/93)

[redacted]
6/30/93

JUN 23 1 00 PM '93

OPCA/FBI
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

b6
b7C

FILE

OPCA[redacted]

what they must lobby against. It is politicians dedicated to government action in a system dedicated to government restraint. Lobbyists are expensive specialists, the products of a system that governs every detail of life. If the din of experts drowns out the voices of naive petitioners, that doesn't prove ordinary folk don't need lobbyists. It only proves they can't afford them.

In the press conference announcing his campaign-finance program, the president made a remarkable statement. He said, "I wish we could give people more control over their lives not less."

If he'd follow through on that sentiment and relinquish to the private sphere some of the details of life, Clinton could not only reduce public cynicism. He could get his voice back.

A MATTER OF TIME

JACOB SULLUM

Masada is the hilltop fortress in southern Israel where 400 Jewish rebels committed mass suicide in 73 A.D. rather than surrender to the Romans. It is the site where Israeli soldiers take their oaths and where Jewish tourists stare at the plain below and contemplate the heroism of their ancestors. It is an enduring symbol of defiance that has inspired Jewish resistance throughout history.

The charred ruins of the Branch Davidian fortress outside Waco, Texas, will have a very different legacy. It's instructive to ask why.

Let us accept, for the sake of argument, the official story of how the Davidians met their fiery end. Many people will reject the parallel between Masada and Waco, arguing that Eliezer ben Yair's zealots had a just cause, while David Koresh's followers had only delusions. The implication is that the Davidians, unlike the Jews at Masada, deserved to be under siege in the first place. Others will argue that both mass suicides were immoral, especially since they involved children.

But from a historical perspective, the Waco tragedy fails the Masada test mainly because there aren't enough Branch Davidians left to preserve a positive memory of it. That observation casts doubt on the conventional wisdom about the nature of cults. To judge from coverage of the Waco affair and anti-cult propaganda in general, there are clear differences between legitimate religions and groups like the Branch Davidians. A closer look reveals that the main difference is time.

A group's beliefs and practices can influence its longevity (witness the Shakers), and not every cult becomes a religion. But those that stick around long enough do. Were it not for the BATF and the FBI, Koresh's followers might have made it. Mormons, Seventh-Day Adventists, and Christian Scientists were once considered just as nutty as the Branch Davidians. Today they are more or less respectable, and eventually they may even attain Presbyterian status. Their practices may have changed a bit (the Mormons gave up plural marriage), but their underlying beliefs remain just as strange to an outsider.

For that matter, the tenets of such well-established religions as Judaism and Roman Catholicism seem normal only because we're used to them. Viewed afresh, they are no less weird than the idea that a seemingly ordinary man is actually God and can come back to life after the government kills him. (Actually, that one sounds familiar.) And the damage caused by truly respectable religions—especially those accepted by intolerant majorities—has been far greater than the damage caused by cults.

This is not to say that we cannot make valid moral distinctions among religious groups. But those distinctions have little to do with whether a group is called a cult or a religion. Instead, we should ask if the group uses force or fraud for profit or to gain and keep followers. Some cults probably do, but so do some mainstream religious groups (PTL comes to mind).

Fraud does not mean simply contradicting what some take to be religious truths, and force does not mean emotional pressure or persistent efforts at persuasion. Otherwise, all groups that proselytize would be beyond the pale.

In this light, what was it that made the Davidians intolerable? The psychiatrist who interviewed the children released from the compound before the fire told the Associated Press he found no evidence of sexual abuse. Nor did Texas authorities who looked into the allegations last year. But given the outrageous things that the press and public were willing to believe about mild-mannered preschool supervisors in California and New Jersey, it's not surprising that they will readily accept unsubstantiated charges of child abuse leveled at a fringe group.

For much of the press, the very lifestyle of Koresh's followers constituted abuse: spartan quarters, little contact with the outside world, military-style drills, and strict discipline, including paddling. The Davidian compound was "a twisted universe completely dominated by David Koresh," *Newsweek* asserts. "The cult leader controlled everything," reports *The New York Times*, including "school, play and even diet."

Any demanding religion can be made to seem sinister. Hassidic Jews, for example, obey and revere their leader, limit outside contact, run their own schools, and even *dictate what their kids may eat*. Does the *Times* know about this?

Lurking beneath the easy contempt for cults is contempt for other people's religions (or for religion in general). It's a surprisingly common attitude in a nation that was founded largely by religious oddballs.

Moving on... After nearly five years at REASON, Charles Oliver has moved to *Investor's Business Daily*, where he is covering California policy issues. Charles continues to write Brickbats for REASON and will contribute occasional articles on popular culture. We wish him the best.

63-HQ-1050305-584
ENCLOSURE

b6
b7c

324

6/24/93

MR SESSIONS:

[redacted] WACO

I KIND OF FELT SORRY FOR YOU WHEN YOU WERE "UNDER FIRE" AND WAS GOING TO GET FIRED. ~~EVER~~ HOWEVER, YOUR POSITION REGUARDING THE PEOPLE IN WACO HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT THOSE WHO WANT TO FIRE YOU ARE RIGHT. ADIOS, SIR I HOPE YOU FIND A GOOD JOB HELPING PEOPLE - LIKE AT MC DONALDS. REGARDS

NO REPLY NECESSARY MPK

[redacted]

WACO TX

b6
b7c

63-HQ-1050305-585

63-HQ-1050305

WACO Farm con

QRCA/[redacted]

b6
b7c

ACK
7/1/93

b6
b7c

[redacted]

HANK BROWN
COLORADO

COMMITTEES
BUDGET
FOREIGN RELATIONS
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0604

May 28, 1993

324

Mr. John E. Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Ninth and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Collingwood:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence we received from [redacted] regarding actions taken by Director Sessions in Waco, Texas. b6 b7c

At her request, we are forwarding her correspondence to you.

Thank you for your consideration of her comments.

Sincerely,

Hank

Hank Brown
United States Senator

HB/mda

63-HQ-1050305-586

2 ENCLOSURE

b6 b7c

Final Ack 7/1/93

[redacted]

Interim response dated 6-8-93 [redacted]

b6 b7c

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

b6 b7C

#298716

[redacted] 5/17

[redacted] 9/12

May 6, 1993

Dear Senator Brown,

Would you please see that Mr. Sessions and FBI get this letter. I couldn't find an address for them, so am sending to you, as my State Senator, to get it to them.

Thank you very much

Sincerely

[redacted]

b6 b7C

63-119-1050305 -586

ENCLOSURE

b6
b7C

[redacted]

May 6, 1993

Dear Mr. Sessions and FBI

I totally support what you did at the Koresh Compound in Waco, TX.

I feel strongly that those trained in a field know best what to do and when to do. as that's what your training is all about.

For those of us in Congress, or in any position to second guess your strategies is to undermine the function of the agency.

I know I'm only "one fish in the sea" but I want you to know you have my support.

And I'm very grateful for

all your services to our great Country.

Continued success to you. God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

b6

b7c

22

324

July 7, 1993

Honorable Hank Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0604

Dear Senator Brown: Waco TX

I am writing in further response to your May 28th correspondence in which you forwarded a copy of a letter you received from [redacted] [redacted] strong support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound means a great deal to all of us in the FBI. We rely upon the support of the American people for what we do, and we appreciate your sharing [redacted] expression of support with us.

b6
b7C

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Mandigo
Legislative Counsel
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 14
JUL 09 1993
FBI

1 - Denver - Enclosures (3)
1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosures (3)
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240
1 - Congressional Affairs Office, Room 7240

63-HQ-1050305-587

NOTE: Bufiles checked. Substance of paragraph 2 similar to terminology used by the Director in writing to American citizens who have written in support of the FBI's actions in Waco.

[redacted] (9)

b6
b7C

Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. ____
ADD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
CJIS ____
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. ____
Insp. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEOA ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
TOM Office ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Office ____

APPROVED:
Director ____
Dep. Dir. ____
ADD Adm. ____
ADD Inv. ____
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Crim. Jus. Info. Servs. ____
Ident. ____
Info. Mgmt. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. of EEO Affs. ____
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. ____
TOM Off. ____

MAIL ROOM

b6
b7C

RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

313 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103
(202) 224-5744

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510-0103

May 13, 1993

STATE OFFICES:

1800 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
321 FEDERAL BUILDING
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
(205) 731-1384

HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
1000 GLENN HEARN BOULEVARD
BOX 20127
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35824
(205) 772-0460

113 ST. JOSEPH STREET
438 U.S. COURTHOUSE
MOBILE, AL 36602
(205) 694-4164

15 LEE STREET
826A U.S. COURTHOUSE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
(205) 832-7303

1118 GREENSBORO AVENUE
ROOM 240 U.S. COURTHOUSE
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401
(205) 759-5047

324

Mr. John E. Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
9th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Collingwood:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I received from [redacted]

[redacted]

0 WACO TX

b6
b7C

Any information you may have regarding this matter would be appreciated in order that I may be able to respond to my constituent's inquiry. PLEASE REPLY, IN DUPLICATE, TO THE ATTENTION OF MY STAFF MEMBER, HOPE GREEN, USING THE NAME OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONSTITUENT IN YOUR CORRESPONDENCE.

Thank you for your prompt assistance to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Shelby

Richard Shelby

RCS/vhs
Enclosure

1 ENCLOSURE

63-HQ-1050305-588

Final ack
6-21-93
[redacted]

b6
b7C

Interim response
dated 5-24-93 [redacted]

OPCA-1 [redacted]

b6
b7C

93 APR 27 PM 1:30

21 April 1993.

Senator Richard Shelby
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Shelby:

According to both the Birmingham News and at least one of the local (Birmingham) television news reports agents of the FBI flew the Alabama flag atop one of its tanks in the recent siege in Waco, Texas. Furthermore, they stated that some of the FBI officers involved were from Alabama. If these reports are, indeed, accurate I have some questions.

First- I do not understand how or why a Federal agency would go into "battle" under the auspices of a state banner. Was much serious thought given to this action. Secondly and certainly related - for years Alabama has fought a certain unsavory reputation. Doing this can only add to the cowboy-pick up truck-redneck reputation that so many people apply to the people of this state.

I, too, am proud of the state and the flag. I do not think that using it in such a fashion shows pride. Since it was used in a situation under federal government guidance I wonder of the ramifications of its usage and if those individuals who elected to fly it have had to make any serious justifications for their decisions.

Cordially,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

63-HQ-1050305-2688

ENCLOSURE