

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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**Collection:** deGraffenreid, Kenneth E.: Files  
**Folder Title:** Bulgarian/KGB/Pope Connection –  
Assassination Attempt 1983  
**Box:** RAC Box 22

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*Last Updated: 08/26/2024*

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** DEGRAFFENREID, KENNETH: FILES

**Withdrawer**

SJW 8/15/2016

**File Folder** BULGARIAN/KGB/POPE CONNECTION ASSASSINATION  
ATTEMPT: 1983

**FOIA**

F02-0083/01

**Box Number** 22

PRADOS

2235

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
179517	FOLDER	MEMOS, NOTES, PAPERS,	37	ND	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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*Withdrawer*

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22

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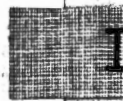
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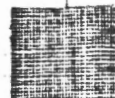
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## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 26, 1983

FOR: JUDGE CLARK  
WALT RAYMOND  
→ KEN deGRAFFENREID

FROM: BOB SIMS

X68  
-Pore

29

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Ken:

Looks like we're  
in business. Let's move  
out smartly on this.

Bill

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 19, 1983

WPC HAS SEEN

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: WILLIAM STEARMAN 

SUBJECT: Toon Article

I very much recommend that you read Mac Toon's Washington Post article (Tab A) on how to handle relations with the Soviet Union, should charges of Bulgarian responsibility for the assassination attempt on the Pope be proven.

Many of us who have had long experience in dealing with Soviets would agree with all of Mac's recommendations -- even though domestic and foreign political constraints would make it difficult to implement them.

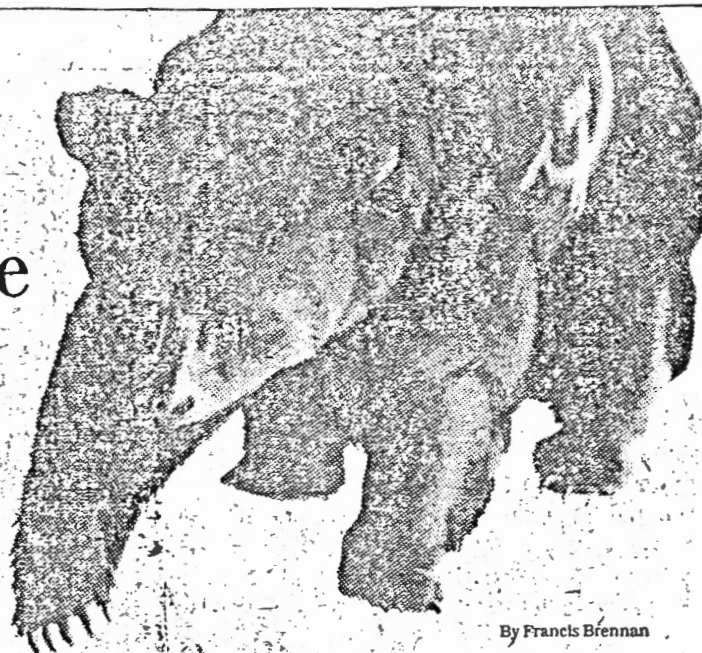
Attachment

Tab A Article by Mac Toon



Malcolm Toon

# What If the Charges Are True? (Cont'd.)



By Francis Brennan

*Suppose it is true not only that the Soviets are responsible for the use of chemical and biological weapons in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia, but also that the assassination attempt on the pope was undertaken with their blessing—what is the implication for U.S.-Soviet relations? What should the American response be? McGeorge Bundy addressed this question in our pages on Jan. 9. The following is the response of Malcolm Toon, former American ambassador to the Soviet Union.*

The Soviet disinformation campaign to prove to the world that the new Soviet party leader, Yuri Andropov, despite his KGB affiliation, is really a nice fellow and even a closet liberal has run into serious trouble as the evidence of recent Soviet misbehavior accumulates. There now seems no question that the Soviets have been testing their chemical and biological warfare resources and techniques on the beleaguered but still undaunted Afghan rebels as well as on innocent noncombatants in Southeast Asia. More recently, the news from Rome fuels and reinforces the suspicion that there was a Bulgarian—and thus Soviet—connection with the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II.

My imputation of guilt to Moscow will raise few eyebrows among those knowledgeable about the subservient relationship between the Bulgarians and their Soviet masters. Clearly, if the Bulgarian secret services were involved, then the KGB was also involved. For, certainly, the Bulgarians would not on their own engage in such a reckless, sensitive, highly explosive mission. And, equally certainly, if the KGB was involved, then its chief at the time—Yuri Andropov—must have had specific knowledge of and given his personal approval to the assassination attempt.

But the jury is still out, and it would be premature at this point to pin the blame for fingering the respected and revered Pope John Paul II for assassination. But the possibility is there, and it is not too soon to consider what our course of action should be in the event our Italian friends should prove beyond a doubt the Bulgarian connection. By "our," I have in mind not only the official position in Washington but also the collective reaction of the NATO family.

It may boggle the minds of some that the Soviets or their satraps would engage in such an obscenity, but not of those who down through the years have carefully monitored and recorded repeated examples of Soviet brutality—from the ruthless liquidation of the Russian peasantry in the '20s through the purges of all possible sources of opposition to the leadership in the '30s to the more recent brutal treatment of dissidents and refuseniks by Andropov's KGB in the '70s. So, it is entirely possible that the evidence, when in, will be conclusive of Bulgarian and, therefore, Soviet guilt, and we better gear ourselves now to deal with this highly explosive issue.

Some will recommend that we sever all ties with a nation capable of such contemptible behavior. That would be an egregious mistake. Others, apprehensive of the consequences for world stability of making a pariah of the Soviet Union, may suggest that we, in effect, sweep the whole dirty affair under the rug and thus avoid any serious impairment of our relations with Moscow. That, in my view, would be an equally unacceptable and perhaps even a worse mistake. Our most sensible course of action, it seems to me, would be not to outlaw the Soviet Union, equally not to ignore the facts, but to recast our relationship to reflect newly revealed realities. I would suggest the following specific steps:

1) Characterize the Soviet Union for what it is—a ruthless, brutal power capable of resorting to the worst obscenities to meet its ends, but a power possessing such awesome military might that, if isolated and deprived of intercourse with the civilized world, could well make a serious misjudgment and upset the fragile balance that now exists between peace and Armageddon.

2) Maintain formal ties with the Soviet Union, continue efforts together with our allies to achieve a more stable world by defusing or at least making less volatile the areas of tension between us, capping the arms race and, one hopes, in the end inducing less obnoxious Soviet behavior on the world scene.

3) Modify our traditional relationship with the Soviets to reflect realities—always there but ignored during eras of “good feeling.” This means, above all, the elimination of all traces of chuminess and a final recognition that Soviet ideology and behavior simply rule out camaraderie, good will and trust between us.

4) Terminate all references to summitry as a desirable way of doing business with the Soviets. The president should make clear that, in the light of recent evidence, a meeting with Andropov would unacceptably tarnish the luster of the high office he holds and that from now on he will deal with the Soviets through our ambassador in Moscow and occasional meetings at the foreign minister level, if these should offer some prospect of forward movement.

5) Urge the private sector to reduce to a minimum or, better, terminate the successors to Pugwash—such as the Dartmouth Conference, the United Nations Association meetings and others that have always suffered from the asymmetry between critics of policies of an incumbent American administration and staunch protagonists and defenders of Soviet positions and behavior.

6) Persuade our media to refrain from offering free propaganda platforms to the self-styled “independents” on the Soviet side—like the Arbatovs, the Zhukovs and the Menshikovs, who are far from being what they pretend to be.

7) Make clear there is a price for performing dirty tricks at Soviet behest by reducing to a minimum traffic with the Bulgarians—meaning, among other things, cutting Western representation in Sofia to the bone—e.g., closing all but one or two NATO embassies.

8) Consult on all of the above with our NATO allies to ensure a concerted allied reaction and thus avoid shameful and damaging spectacles of disarray such as we saw in the unseemly hassle over the pipeline.

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Now, |

Brian thought  
we should probably  
file these - even  
though he has kept  
#s on them. Believe  
you do have files  
that deal with the  
main topics. Jm

National Security Council  
The White House

514<sup>36</sup>

1655P

JAN 24 1983

Package #

90078

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	ACTION
John Poindexter	1	<del>✓</del>	✓
Bud McFarlane	2	m	
Jacque Hill	3	g	
Judge Clark	4	✓	A
John Poindexter			
Staff Secretary			
Sit Room			

I-Information   A-Action   R-Retain   D-Dispatch   N-No further Action

DISTRIBUTION

cc: VP   Meese   Baker   Deaver   Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS

*mm*

0927

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 8, 1983

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: ROGER W. ROBINSON *RWR*

SUBJECT: Congressional Inquiry about U.S. Posture  
on Plot to Assassinate the Pope

Attached (Tab I) is an inquiry from Congressman Larry McDonald (Georgia) that, in my mind, is representative of an increasing concern among the American people that our Administration is distancing itself from the investigation or not being as cooperative as it could be with the Italian authorities. I am not presently in the loop regarding our actual activities and therefore do not know whether or not these concerns are legitimate. I do believe that it may be time to urgently reassess our public affairs posture to determine if it can better reflect the President's personal instincts about the alleged sinister role of Soviet bloc intelligence services in the assassination attempt. Is there some appropriate and qualified manner in which we can step up our expressions of outrage? Will our intelligence gathering activities in this connection eventually permit us to make some statement to the American people? It calls to mind Evan Galbraith's comment supportive of our position on Soviet attempts to dominate the European gas market in the 1990's -- "If not us -- who? -- if not now -- when?"

Attachment

Tab I Letter from McDonald

cc: Peter Sommer  
Ken deGraffenreid  
Norman Bailey  
Dennis Blair  
Mort Allin  
Chuck Tyson

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

COMMITTEE:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
SEAPOWER AND STRATEGIC  
AND CRITICAL MATERIALS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

January 27, 1983

366 POWDER SPRINGS STREET  
SUITE 212  
MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30064  
TELEPHONE: (404) 422-4480  
39  
301 FEDERAL BUILDING  
ROME, GEORGIA 30161  
TELEPHONE: (404) 291-7777  
POST OFFICE BUILDING  
ROSVILLE, GEORGIA 30741  
TELEPHONE: (404) 866-2222

121797

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

Dear Mr. President:

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

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

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

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

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



Page 2

The Honorable President Reagan

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

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

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

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

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

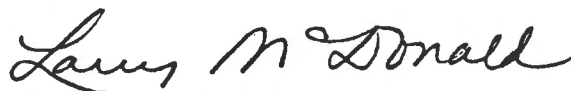
You have repeatedly demonstrated in the past that your instincts are sound and that your knowledge about the aims of the Soviet Union and its plans to dominate our world is complete. It is imperative that you, as leader of the Free World, must continue to chart a moral

Page 3

The Honorable Ronald Reagan

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry McDonald".

Larry P. McDonald, M.C.

LPM/tbaw



REFERRAL

DATE: 09 FEB 83

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: MCDONALD, LARRY

DATE: 27 JAN 83

KEYWORDS: CO

USSR

JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN

SUBJ: LTR RE KGB INVOLVEMENT IN ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL

-----  
REQUIRED ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

DUE DATE: 14 FEB 83

COMMENTS: \*\* PLEASE COORDINATE REPLY W/ KEN DEGRAFFENREID 395-3334 &  
PAULA DOBRIANSKY 395-3912 OF NSC STAFF.  
FOR MICHAEL O WHEELER

STAFF SECRETARY

ID # 121797092 / 43  
JL 003-01WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence  
Received (YY/MM/DD)83,01,28Name of Correspondent: Larry McDonald☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes:

(A) PRES

(B) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Expresses concern that The United States has been trying to suppress the Soviet KGB connection with regard to the attempted assassination of the Pope. Asks "that you immediately tell The American people on nationwide television about the evidence compiled to date, regarding The KGB connection, and what steps the Administration is taking in retaliation against The Soviets"

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA DUBE</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>1 1</u>	<u>RD</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>83,01,28</u>
<u>NSC Sec</u>		Referral Note:	<u>R 83,02,07</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

## ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action  
C - Comment/Recommendation  
D - Draft Response  
F - Furnish Fact Sheet  
to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary  
R - Direct Reply w/Copy  
S - For Signature  
X - Interim Reply

## DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered  
B - Non-Special Referral  
C - Completed  
S - Suspended

## FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer  
Code = "A"  
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

February 3, 1983

Dear Larry:

On behalf of the President, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your letter dated January 27. Your letter requests specific information, and urges that certain actions be taken, on the subject of KGB involvement in the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul a year and half ago.

Please know that your letter is now being shared with the appropriate officials, and that thorough consideration will be given to the issues you have raised. I assure you that we appreciate your serious concern with respect to this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein  
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Larry P. McDonald  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

KMD:CMF:nap

cc: w/copy of inc, NSC Secretariat -- for DIRECT response  
(with copy to Ken Duberstein)

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT WILL RETAIN ORIGINAL INCOMING

LARRY P. McDONALD  
7TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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

COMMITTEE:  
ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
SEAPOWER AND STRATEGIC  
AND CRITICAL MATERIALS

**Congress of the United States**  
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366 POWDER SPINGS STREET  
SUITE 212  
MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30064  
TELEPHONE: (404) 422-4480

301 FEDERAL BUILDING  
ROME, GEORGIA 30161  
TELEPHONE: (404) 291-7777

POST OFFICE BUILDING  
ROSSVILLE, GEORGIA 30741  
TELEPHONE: (404) 866-2222

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

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The Honorable Ronald Reagan

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry P. McDonald". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Larry P. McDonald, M.C.

LPM/tbaw

RECEIVED 08 FEB 83 09

TO PRESIDENT FROM MCDONALD, LARRY DOCDATE 27 JAN 83  
DUBERSTEIN, K 03 FEB 83

KEYWORDS: CO USSR JOHN PAUL II  
VATICAN

SUBJECT: LTR RE KGB INVOLVEMENT IN ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL

ACTION: \*\*RECOMMENDATIONS DUE: 11 FEB 83 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION	FOR CONCURRENCE	FOR INFO
SOMMER		DOBRIANSKY
		ROBINSON
		MYER
		STEARMAN
		FORTIER

COMMENTS \*\*NSC/S RECOMMENDS SENDING THIS TO STATE FOR DIRECT REPLY

YES ; NO ; OTHER

REF# LOG NSCIFID ( C / )

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO



# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- ☐ O - OUTGOING
- ☐ H - INTERNAL
- ☐ I - INCOMING  
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD)

83,01,28

Name of Correspondent: Larry McDonald

☐ MI Mail Report      User Codes: (A) PRES (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Expresses concern that The United States has been trying to suppress the Soviet KGB connection with regard to the attempted assassination of the Pope. Asks "that you immediately tell The American people on nationwide television about the evidence compiled to date, regarding the KGB connection, and what steps the Administration is taking in retaliation against The Soviets"

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA DUBE</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>1 1</u>	<u>KD</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>83,02,03</u>
<u>NSC Sec.</u>		Referral Note:	<u>R 83,02,07</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
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- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOb).  
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.  
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.



February 3, 1983

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Kenneth M. Duberstein  
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Larry P. McDonald  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

KMD:CMP:nap

cc: w/copy of inc, NSC Secretariat -- for DIRECT response  
(with copy to Ken Duberstein)

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT WILL RETAIN ORIGINAL INCOMING

LARRY P. McDONALD  
7TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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

COMMITTEE:  
ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
SEAPOWER AND STRATEGIC  
AND CRITICAL MATERIALS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

January 27, 1983

DISTRICT OFFICES: 51  
366 POWDER SPRINGS STREET  
SUITE 212  
MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30064  
TELEPHONE: (404) 422-4480

301 FEDERAL BUILDING  
ROME, GEORGIA 30161  
TELEPHONE: (404) 291-7777

POST OFFICE BUILDING  
ROSSVILLE, GEORGIA 30741  
TELEPHONE: (404) 866-2222

121797

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

Dear Mr. President:

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

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

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

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

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

Page 2

The Honorable President Reagan

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

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

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

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

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

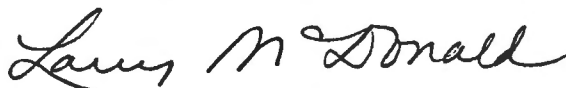
You have repeatedly demonstrated in the past that your instincts are sound and that your knowledge about the aims of the Soviet Union and its plans to dominate our world is complete. It is imperative that you, as leader of the Free World, must continue to chart a moral

Page 3

The Honorable Ronald Reagan

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry P. McDonald". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Larry P. McDonald, M.C.

LPM/tbaw

54

February 17, 1983, 1983 ~~XX~~

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1963 O - 714-464

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**

March 18, 1983

TO: PAULA DOBRIANSKY  
BILL STEARMAN

FROM: KEN deGRAFFENREID *Kd*

1

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8301778

RECEIVED 16 MAR 83 19

TO PRESIDENT FROM HUMPHREY, GORDON J DOCDATE 07 MAR 83

*Subject  
Pope*

KEYWORDS: CO ITALY  
TERRORISM

SUBJECT: CONCERN RE INVESTIGATION ON THE PLOT TO KILL THE POPE

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION DUE: 18 MAR 83 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION	FOR CONCURRENCE	FOR INFO
SOMMER		DEGRAFFENREID
		BOVERIE
		FORTIER
		NORTH
		DUR

COMMENTS \*\* WE RECOMMEND SENDING THIS TO STATE FOR A DIRECT RESPONSE

REF# LOG NSCIFID ( M / )

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO

ID # 129590WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☒ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence  
Received (YY/MM/DD) 831031/11Name of Correspondent: Gordon J. Humphrey☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Expresses concern that the Central Intelligence Agency is not conducting an official, independent investigation into the plot to kill the Pope.

## ROUTE TO:

## ACTION

## DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>State</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>831031/11</u> <sup>WS</sup>	<u>KD</u>	<u>A83P3,15</u>	
<u>1-5 att. Secretariat</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>831031/11</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>
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to be used as EnclosureI - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary  
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S - For Signature  
X - Interim Reply

## DISPOSITION CODES:

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S - Suspended

## FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer  
Code = "A"  
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.  
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).  
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.  
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.



March 15, 1983

Dear Senator Humphrey:

On behalf of the President, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your letter regarding the investigation into the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul a year and a half ago.

We appreciate your serious concern with respect to this matter. Your letter is now being shared with the appropriate Presidential advisers so that your comments may receive prompt and thorough consideration.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein  
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Gordon J. Humphrey  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

KMD:CMF:nap

cc: w/copy of inc, NSC Secretariat -- for DIRECT response  
(with copy to Ken Duberstein)

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT WILL RETAIN ORIGINAL INCOMING

GORDON J. HUMPHREY  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

SH-531 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-2841

NEW HAMPSHIRE TOLL FREE NUMBER  
1-800-852-3714

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 7, 1983

59  
COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN: SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PREPAREDNESS

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC  
WORKS

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

129590

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

Dear Mr. President:

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

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

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

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Gordon J. Humphrey, USS

GJH:jko

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 18, 1983  
1215

*file Done*

Ken,

Debbie Roche called again - see attached.

Does not believe a response is necessary.  
What is your view?

Please call.

x5112

*Done*

June

Cham

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 18, 1983

TO: PAULA DOBRIANSKY  
BILL STEARMAN

FROM: KEN deGRAFFENREID *Kd*

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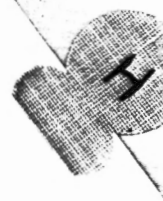
  
Gordon J. Humphrey, USS

GJH:jko



## 70

But,  
I think this is a bad idea





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TO NSC

SECRETARIAT

IN APRIL 1987

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