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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

15 March 1999

Mr. James E. Hall
Chairman, National Transportation
Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW
Washington, DC 20594-2000

Dear Chairman Hall:

Thank you for your letter dated February 25, 1999 requesting a technical briefing for the NTSB's Witness Group in connection with CIA's assistance to the FBI on the TWA Flight 800 investigation. I understand that your request is for the purpose of helping the Witness Group--before it issues its findings of fact publicly--understand CIA's evaluation of the witness statements. I know what an important matter this is for all concerned, and we want to assist you in any way we can.

I have asked the lead analyst on CIA's Flight 800 effort to provide the briefing you requested at your earliest convenience. During the past 16 months, this analyst has been working closely with Dr. David Mayer of your organization to help with the NTSB's analysis of the eyewitness reports. Dr. Mayer, who as you know heads the NTSB's Witness Group, has already provided CIA with a list of potential questions that members of the group might ask concerning CIA's analytical techniques and conclusions. We shall try to address these during the briefing, and understand that additional questions might arise as the briefing progresses.

I understand also that the briefing will be in a closed session, that no transcript will be made of CIA's presentation, and that appropriate safeguards will be available to protect any extraneous CIA and FBI interests. As the Witness Group's interests relate to CIA's previously announced analysis of witness statements provided by the FBI, we do not anticipate that any classified information will be involved.

Again, we look forward to providing assistance.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Tenet".

George J. Tenet
Director of Central Intelligence