

Mr. Stephen W. Preston
General Counsel
Central Intelligence AgencyMcLean, Virginia

SUBJECT: Report To Congress On Air America

Dear Mr. Preston:

Attached is a copy of Section 1057 of the National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-84. This Section requires the Director of Intelligence to submit a report to Congress within 180 days on the advisability of providing Federal retirement benefits to U.S. citizens for their service as employees of Air America, or an associated company, during the time any such company was owned and controlled by the United States Government.

These companies were operated by the Central Intelligence Agency and your office may be instrumental in preparing this report.

Elements of the required report include a description of (1) the work force of Air America and its associated companies; (2) the casualties suffered by employees in the course of their employment; (3) retirement benefits contracted for or promised to employees; (4) the contributions made by employees and (5) the retirement benefits actually paid to the employees.

I am writing to offer my assistance in preparing the above five aspects of the report. I was employed by Air America in its legal office from 1962 to 1974.

Shortly after arriving at the company headquarters in Taipei I provided legal advice the compensation the company was required to pay, under applicable laws, to employees or their survivors in cases of injury or death during the course of their employment. My attached memoranda of 10 July 1962 resulted in the company providing the benefits required under the Federal laws that applied to Air America. Such benefits were not paid prior to this.

From 1962 until the companies were dissolved in 1975 I was legal advisor on these personnel matters and I have records of the casualties suffered by employees, the names of employees killed or injured, the dates and amounts of payments, and the related correspondence with employees or their survivors. This included liaison with the

Department of Labor on workmen's compensation cases, filing reports such as the one attached of 31 August 1969 on deceased employee William Gibbs.

In 1962 Air America established the Air America Retirement Plan and I was appointed the Secretary for this Plan as shown in the attached memorandum of 1 April 1963, sent

to all company employees advising that the Plan had been approved by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. From 1962 until 1975 I was responsible for administering the Plan, including determining who was eligible, what contributions were required, and preparing and signing all documents effecting payments to Plan participants. My records contain names of persons eligible for the Plan, the beginning and ending dates of participation, and amount paid to each employee.

As a long time employee in Asia, with a top secret clearance, and knowledge of Air America activities and its relationship to the Agency, I believe I can provide valuable historical information to your office about the company structure, the employee work force, including foreign nationals, and the day to day operations in Asia.

If you wish to discuss this with me I can be reached at 703 508-7131 or wjmerrigan@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

William J. Merrigan
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