August 1, 1975

Mr. William E. Colby
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

CERTIFIED -
ADDRESSEE ONLY

Dear Mr. Colby:

It is because I believe you do have a need to know that I address this letter to you by certified, addressee-only mail.

Under 5 U.S.C. 552 for more than five years I have been seeking to obtain access to CIA files on me that I believe were compiled improperly and illegally. Whether or not you agree with this description, they were compiled, access to and copies of them are mine as a matter of legal right, and your subordinates, including an assistant, are and have been stonewalling.

On January 2 of this year, accompanied by counsel, I conferred with your general counsel. Regardless of how he may seek to resort to semantics, I did tell him quite explicitly that I have copies of some of these files. I did tell him of other kinds of files I know exist and of still others I am confident, with sufficient basis, also exist.

His not consistent subsequent responses were, in writing, that there are no such files; and verbally, to my lawyer, that they are not criminal anyway.

On July 9 I wrote him again, partly because he had been involved in the request I made more than five years ago to which to this day there has been no response; and partly because, despite my request, he did not send me copies of the regulations under the amended law when they were promulgated.

I believe you as Director should know the state of and attitude toward "Freedom of Information" within your Agency when even the regulations are not obtainable within the time prescribed by law.

I also believe that you, personally, particularly because of the current situation of the Agency whose proper functioning I regard as a national need, should know that he has not responded to and has not referred my letter to anyone else who has responded in any way in considerably more than the time permitted by law.

Under the law as I understand it, this nonresponsiveness amounts to a denial of my request. Having informed you of it, I ask that you forward this letter as my appeal from the denial to whatever person you designated to handle appeals. The general counsel's refusal to supply me with even the regulations denies me knowledge so I do not know to whom to send a copy.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg