



CHRISTIC INSTITUTE

Washington, D.C.

Dear friends,

In May of 1986, the Christic Institute filed a Federal Racketeering Act civil lawsuit against Richard Secord, Albert Hakim, Theodore Shackley and others who took part in a criminal conspiracy with Col. Oliver North, in an "off the shelf, stand alone, self-financing, covert operations enterprise". We were scoffed at and belittled by almost every sector of the American political community.

In October of 1986, Eugene Hasenfus was shot down over Nicaragua, and confessed his role in this semi-private "enterprise". Following that, other team members were caught red-handed selling missiles to Iran and transferring embezzled profits to the Contras. Only then did the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *CBS News* recognize there was a serious problem.

Between 1976 and 1980, a group of covert intelligence operatives and weapons suppliers formed itself into a "secret team," or "shadow government" It was one of the best kept secrets in America.

When we filed the suit against this secret team of men, only a few other lonely voices were already "crying in the wilderness" and raising the alarm of the people of our nation about the existence of this criminal cabal. In this select group was Mae Brussell, who, in her weekly broadcasts over radio stations KLRB-FM and KAZU-FM in California had been attempting to warn our democracy of the danger these men presented.

Mae is gone now. She died of cancer in October of 1988. But her work, and her warning is carried on today by the Mae Brussell Research Center in Santa Cruz, California. Mae's center is the repository of over 800 of her radio broadcasts, thousands of books and tens of thousands of articles on the subject of illegal covert operations, political assassination, and Executive branch duplicity. Mae knew the threat posed to democracy by ultra-right wing political and racial causes. If we believe we vanquished this fascism in World War II, we do so only at our peril.

With your help, this treasure trove of source material can become an invaluable resource for the Christic Institute in its campaign to inform the people of our nation about the criminal conduct of these men and to bring them to justice. The Center will also help all of the public interest research groups understand the history of these men and the threat they represent to us all.

With your support, this resource can help the Christic Institute immensely. So, when you are reviewing your giving plans this year, please put the Mae Brussell Research Center high up on your list.

Daniel P. Sheehan
General Counsel, The Christic Institute