

Mr. Ben Bradlee
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071.

8/20/88

Dear Ben,

I've just read your coverage of the Crowe report on the Iranian airbus tragedy, more than two full pages and all uncritical acceptance.

Because of your reaction to my letters regarding the Nicaraguan adventure I'll keep this very simple so that perhaps you may find what you referred to as a "germ" in it.

Basic to the report and the official position all along is the claim that the airbus never responded to a series of warnings. I hope you will agree with this without my adding length for direct quotes.

But your own account, which I assume was taken from the text of the report, is that the warnings were addressed to "Iranian F14." (Page 20, col. 1, graf. 4)

Can you as an editor or the Post as a paper believe that there is any reason at all for the airbus to respond to a warning addressed to "Iranian F14"?

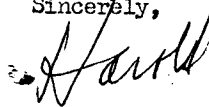
Do you suppose that in drafting the report the brass missed this?

If you did not spot this, do you think others on the Post, particularly those involved in the reporting, ought have spotted it and either reported it in what they wrote or called it to someone's attention?

There is ever so much seriously wrong in this report not indicated in any way in your extensive coverage. If by any chance you want particulars, please ask and I'll take the time. Some is beyond question, some is quite reasonably questioned and some is overtly false.

If you've forgotten or if you never knew, I spent some years as an analyst in intelligence. This report simply cannot survive critical analysis, not even when that analysis is from no other source. Actually, the analysis is limited to what the Post used of the longer text and any appendices. This suggests that an analysis based on the whole thing might disclose more. I'm sure it would, drawing on a fairly extensive experience in such matters.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg