



Air America Association, Inc.

P.O. BOX 1522
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009
(512) 538-3872

June 23, 1997

Mr. John Hendricks
Discovery Channel
7700 Wisconsin Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Mr. Hendricks:

The Discovery Channel's documentary "CIA Secret Warriors" has falsely implied that Air America was the CIA's covert partner in the illicit drug trade.

At our annual Air America reunion in Florida the general membership meeting was dominated by irate members who felt betrayed by the Discovery Channel. We had welcomed Mark Levin Productions to our 1996 reunion, expecting a fair objective documentary. Many association members have written to you concerning this matter. One such letter received a reply from the Executive Producer, Ms. Nancy LeBrun. Ms. LeBrun said she had reviewed the script and the reference was to "covert action partners" regarding drug trafficking and not Air America. She further stated "we stand by the statements which are made." The video that was shown during the narrative discussed the CIA's covert action partners and drugs, while showing an Air America C-46 air-dropping rice in Laos.

Certainly an Executive Producer would not be so incredibly naive as to not recognize the implication. Everyone who saw the documentary and contacted the Air America Association made the connection. We think the average viewer with the intelligence ranging from a rocket-scientist to a village-idiot would reach the same conclusion. To say that we are deeply disappointed in the journalistic integrity of the Discovery Channel is the very least we can convey concerning this matter.

Sincerely

AIR AMERICA ASSOCIATION

John McRainey
President