



U.S. Department of Justice

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Northern District of Illinois

Patrick J. Fitzgerald
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March 26, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE (202) 324-6490

John E. Collingwood
Assistant Director
Office of Public and Congressional Affairs
FBI Headquarters Rm 7240
Washington, DC

Re: *Requests to Interview Special Agents Robert Wright and John B. Vincent*

Dear Assistant Director Collingwood:

We are in receipt of a proposed draft letter from your office to Thomas Fitton, President of Judicial Watch, regarding the latter's request for authorization for his clients, FBI SA Robert Wright and FBI SA John B. Vincent, to be interviewed by Judith Miller of the New York Times. As drafted, the letter appears to grant a request from a representative of FBI agents, directed to the FBI, seeking FBI approval for a proposed interview with the media concerning matters still under criminal investigation and which are the subject of pending civil litigation. As you know, the Justice Department prohibits agents and attorneys from publicly commenting on pending matters. Accordingly, we do not see how the request could be granted. Moreover, having a representative from this office present will not solve the problem. We are not in a position to police a media interview that should not take place and for which our presence might be construed as an endorsement of a discussion of such matters with the press.

Your consideration of our concerns is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

PATRICK J. FITZGERALD
United States Attorney

cc: Larry Parkinson, General Counsel, FBI