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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20307-5100

January 11, 1990



IN REPLY, REFER TO:
Division of Retrovirology

C-SPAN Networks
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Sir or Madam:

I wish to express my dismay over your decision to broadcast a lecture entitled "The Secret Wars of the CIA" delivered by a Mr. John Stockwell. The lecture and an accompanying question and answer session were given at American University on November 3, 1989 and were aired on C-SPAN II, Channel 14 on December 30, 1989.

I was particularly concerned about Mr. Stockwell's distortions and inaccuracies regarding AIDS. Loose notions about government work on viruses, garbled allusions to swine flu, and woefully misguided convictions that the HIV virus does not cause AIDS were stuffed into a theme that the AIDS epidemic is the result of a CIA conspiracy. The whole segment could be dismissed as absurd were it not for the stamp of credibility given by C-SPAN II.

Regrettably, I did not videotape the program so I am unable to precisely document each error. If you would be so kind as to send me a written transcript of Mr. Stockwell's comments I would be willing to prepare for you a point by point critique and rebuttal. I have enclosed a copy of my CV to assure you that I have the requisite expertise to do so.

C-SPAN II can justifiably be proud of its record of stimulating programming. However, Mr. Stockwell's lecture and comments crossed the threshold beyond provocative to the absurd: this episode may have significantly damaged C-SPAN's credibility. I urge you to be more careful in future program selections.

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Please consider my criticism seriously. I am very concerned about the damage to AIDS public health control efforts that may have resulted from your having aired this program.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Colonel, U.S. Army

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[REDACTED]

Rockville, Maryland 20850

[REDACTED]

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American University