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One Hundred Second Congress
Congress of the United States

TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE CERTAIN
ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE HOLDING OF
AMERICAN HOSTAGES BY IRAN IN 1980
("OCTOBER SURPRISE TASK FORCE")

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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TO: Michael Zeldin
Mark Shaffer

FROM: E. Lawrence Barcella, Jr. *ELB*

DATE: December 8, 1992

RE: Necessary disclaimer

I want to put some language in, as a trap door, something like what follows, let me know your thoughts:

As noted, the Task Force believes that its investigation has been the most thorough and complete review and investigation of the October Surprise allegations as has been conducted. This report does not and could not reflect every single lead that was investigated, every single phone call that was made, every single contact that was established. Similarly, the Task Force did not resolve every single one of the scores of "curiosities", "coincidences", Sub-allegations or question marks that have been raised over the years and become part of the October Surprise story. Given the time available to us, however, the Task Force fully investigated all of the major allegations and most of the minor ones before we reached the conclusions that are contained in the report. In large measure, it was the desire of the Task Force to let the facts uncovered dictate their own conclusions, rather than require us to overly analyze or characterize evidence. Experienced investigators are familiar with the regularly occurring phenomena of multiple witnesses to the same event describing that event differently based on their own powers of recollection, perceptions and biases. The most difficult witness to evaluate is the one who is telling the truth, but for a variety of reasons, may be mistaken as to the facts they are describing.

To the extent that nagging questions remain to some after reviewing this report, we hope that those will be resolved in the future, but feel confident that it will not disturb in any material way the conclusions reached in this report.