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Folder Title:
60 Minutes, 2/15/76

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RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM 60 Minutes

STATION WTOP TV
CBS Network

DATE February 15, 1976 7:00 PM CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT An Interview with CIA Director Bush

MIKE WALLACE: At no time in the 29 years of its existence has the Central Intelligence Agency come under such close public scrutiny as right now. Dirty tricks, excesses, failures, illegalities -- all have been aired before congressional committees and in the press.

Well, President Ford wants to refurbish the image of the CIA, to restore our confidence in it. Former Director William Colby was sacked. The new man is George Bush.

Mr. Bush has held almost as many public posts as Elliot Richardson: congressman from Texas, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Ambassador to the U.N., our man in China. He was sworn in as Director of the CIA two weeks ago. This past week in Los Angeles he talked to 60 Minutes.

His first public act as head of the agency was to announce the CIA would remove from its payroll all journalists working for U.S. news-gathering organizations. But he refused to reveal the names of reporters who had worked for the CIA, refused to reveal them either publicly or in confidence to Senator Frank Church's Select Committee on Intelligence.

Frank Church's committee in the Senate wants the names of those journalists. You will not give Frank Church's committee...

DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH: I won't, sir, no.

WALLACE: You don't trust his committee.

DIRECTOR BUSH: I trust Mr. Church and I trust his committee, but I am dedicated to the protection of sources...

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Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

WALLACE: And?

DIRECTOR BUSH: And I'm not going to do it.

WALLACE: You will not name journalists who in the past have worked with...

DIRECTOR BUSH: Absolutely not.

WALLACE: Why?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Because some people can come up dead, for one reason; and secondly, when you have a contract or you have a relationship, I'm not going to get into the business of giving out names of -- whether they're journalists or who ever they are. I'm simply not going to do that.

Now...

WALLACE: Leaks come out of committees.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Yeah.

WALLACE: Leaks don't necessarily come out of senators; they come out of staff.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Okay. Go ahead.

WALLACE: You deplore it?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Yes, sir, I do. I deplore leaks. They come out of CIA sometimes, too, and I deplore them. And my own view is that we need some kind of legislation, very, very carefully drawn, to have penalties on those who, for their own reasons, leak classified information.

WALLACE: Mr. Bush, Otis Pike, chairman of the House committee looking into CIA activities, a committee that took 10,000 pages of testimony, said that his committee's report reveals, quote, atrocious, horrendous, disastrous, nauseating operations.

Now, you say, "Let's not look back; let's look ahead."

DIRECTOR BUSH: They've already looked back.

WALLACE: Well, tell me something -- I'm sure that you've studied these reports -- what does an intelligence agency of the United States have to do that kind of thing for?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I think some of the things that offend you offend me. I'm not sitting here saying some things haven't gone wrong. But the thing that I don't like about the Pike report

is it didn't talk about the successes; and some of that's impossible to do, because of the very nature, the clandestine nature of some of our operations.

WALLACE: The day after this interview with George Bush, I put some of his criticisms to Congressman Pike. Said Pike, "I concede the CIA has successes, but their successes, on balance, have been pretty puny compared to their failures," he said. And then Pike cited the failures of the intelligence community, beginning at Pearl Harbor and going all the way to the CIA's failure to predict the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, failure to predict the Yom Kippur War, the coup in Cyprus, the coup in Portugal.

Said Pike, "They always tell us, 'Don't look at our failures,' but what they want to do is classify their failures, keep them secret."

The White House wants to suppress that Pike report, says Otis Pike.

DIRECTOR BUSH: I don't believe that.

WALLACE: Well, he says, "because it would be embarrassing to us as a nation." And then he went on to say that we as a nation are strong enough to face the truth.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Let me speak for the CIA, not the Executive, and there's a difference here. The CIA doesn't want to suppress this report.

WALLACE: You want it out?

DIRECTOR BUSH: The CIA would be glad to have it out, protecting classified information; and so would the majority of the Congress, by 2 to 1; 2-to-1 vote said the same thing -- of the Congress, the people speaking.

Now, the CIA -- if somebody's saying we're trying to cover this report up -- and I'm not suggesting Mr. Pike is, but if he is, he's wrong.

WALLACE: Pike's answer? "That is pure, unadulterated hogwash. The CIA wanted to remove half of our entire report." And then he went on, "My committee, which voted 2 to 1 to publish the report, knew what was in it. The full House, which voted 2 to 1 not to publish, did not know what was in the report."

The committee says, Mr. Bush, that there were so many games played with secrecy and classification that they couldn't get the information that they needed.

If they can't get the information they need, how can a

committee oversee the intelligence community?

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well, I don't accept that premise, that the committee didn't get the information it needs. I'm very sorry.

WALLACE: The chairman of that committee, Otis Pike, responded this way: "From the day we were created," he said, "the CIA knew we were operating against a deadline. They always talked cooperation; they always acted to deny information to the committee."

DIRECTOR BUSH: We're living in a tough world. We're not living in one where everybody's operating in an open society like we are.

WALLACE: Perfectly understood, Mr. Bush, but the House report says the following...

DIRECTOR BUSH: Well -- go ahead, go ahead.

WALLACE: All I can do...

DIRECTOR BUSH: Go ahead.

WALLACE: ...is go to the House report.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Okay.

WALLACE: "Today," says the report, "taxpayers and most congressmen don't know and can't find out how much the CIA spends for spy activities. This is in direct conflict with the Constitution, which requires a regular and public accounting for all funds spent by the Federal Government. What is clear is that the Russians" -- this is the House report -- "that the Russians probably have a detailed account of our intelligence spending. In all likelihood, the only people who care to know and who do not know these costs today are the American taxpayers."

DIRECTOR BUSH: This is what the House committee report says.

WALLACE: Right.

DIRECTOR BUSH: The House of Representatives said, by overwhelming majority vote, "We are not going to make the budget matters public."

Let them determine what the reporting should be on this, and this agency will faithfully fulfill our obligation to do what the Congress says.

WALLACE: Has the CIA been in any way, directly or in-

directly, connected with the hiring of mercenaries to fight in Angola?

DIRECTOR BUSH: My view is no.

WALLACE: Your view is no.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Yes.

WALLACE: As far as you know.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Uh-huh.

WALLACE: Where is the money coming from for mercenaries?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I'm not sure that I could help you on that. I don't really know. But we are in compliance with -- with -- I'm confident that the CIA is in compliance with the will of the Congress on this.

WALLACE: Mr. Bush, is there no way that CIA money is getting into Angola, one way or another?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I would say that any involvement or non-involvement in Angola has been properly reported to the oversight committees, and one should press the Congress for any further information on that, which I hope they wouldn't give.

WALLACE: In other words...

DIRECTOR BUSH: I'm not saying that there is or isn't any money in it.

WALLACE: Example from the House committee report, so far suppressed: "CIA covert operations are irregularly approved, sloppily implemented, and at times have been forced on a reluctant CIA by the President and his National Security Adviser," Henry Kissinger.

Example: \$800,000 to a right-wing Italian general.

Example: Intervention in Chile.

DIRECTOR BUSH: Let's look to the future. I hope that, without passing judgment on those cases, that I can bring some judgment to this operation that will at least guarantee that before an operation is entered into, the various people that are involved in the process will have to sign off on the operation; and if it's something that's deeply and morally offensive to me, they can get somebody else to do it.

WALLACE: We can expect in the fairly near future announce-

ments from the White House concerning reorganizations, restructure, streamlining of the intelligence community?

DIRECTOR BUSH: There has -- it's widely reported that the White House is working on these things, and I would say it ought to be very soon. I would say, from my knowledge of what's going to take place, that there will be very important recommendations on restructure, and I think there will be safeguards that certainly the agency can enthusiastically support, and I know will meet with the satisfac -- with the support of the American people.

Can I tell you a little story?

WALLACE: Please.

DIRECTOR BUSH: When I -- when I came here, one journalist said, "Anybody dumb enough to accept the job is too dumb to do it." He got a great laugh from people, because it's a kind of a funny line; let's face it. But God, I said to myself, "How sad for our country, when we're facing some tough, tough opposition in this world, to take such a cynical view of intelligence in the 1976 time." I -- you know, he got his laugh and I got my little hurt inside from it, but it made me determined that I'm going to approach this job with pride. And they can have all the jokes they want on television about the CIA; it's vital to the national security of the United States.

And I feel so dedicated and strongly about it that I just wanted to wedge that in, apropos of no question you've asked.

WALLACE: How long are you going to stay?

DIRECTOR BUSH: I serve at the pleasure of the President.

WALLACE: I understand that. How long are you...

DIRECTOR BUSH: I'm going to stay as long as the President wants me to stay, Mike. There's no politics in this thing for me. Good heavens, you'd have to be hallucinating to think there was any political mileage in this kind of a job.

CONGRATULATORY ON "60 MINUTES"

Sincerely, Harry F. Byrd, Jr.

Executive Registry

76-7217

February 25, 1976

Dear Harry,

Just a quickie to thank you
for your kind words about the
60 Minutes show. I'm glad you
thought it went over well.

Sincerely,

George

George Bush

See you soon

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

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George Bush

GEORGE BUSH

George Bush

Sincerely,

thought it went over well.

60 Minutes show. I'm glad you

for your kind words about the

just a quickie to thank you

Dear Harry,

February 22, 1976

70-1510
Executive Record

of the E. White National

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Sen. Harry
Byrd - Va

15 Feb. Dear Harry
(very short
thank you)

George -

Damn good job you
did on Mike Wallace
show tonight. Metcher's
view, too.

Harry

February 17, 1976

Dear Bill,

Just a quick note to thank you for your thoughtful telegram.

I am very pleased to be in this tough new job. This place is full of able and dedicated people and that is a tremendous help. We've got some tough problems ahead, but I am confident they can be solved because I am confident this country needs a strong CIA.

Thanks again for your good wishes.

Sincerely,

George B.

George Bush
Director

Mr. William A. Davis
890 West 15th Street
Apartment 22
Newport Beach, California 92663

UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE 4-1

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTING	
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16 Feb 76

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FOR DEJ

PMS MR BUSH, DIRECTOR CIA, BLR

WASHINGTON DC

JUST SAW YOU ON 60 MINUTES CONGRATULATIONS WE NEED MORE MEN OF YOUR
PROSPECTIVE AND INTEGRITY

WILLIAM A DAVIS890 WEST 15 ST APT 22 NEWPORT BEACH CA 92663

NNNN

1241A EST FEB 16 76

CLR

K
Thank you

UNCLASSIFIED

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

March 1, 1976

Dear Chris,

Just a quick note to thank you for your thoughtful letter. I was delighted to hear from you and I appreciate your kind words. Sunday we Bushes had a tremendous treat--Lisa came for lunch. She is one of my very favorite people.

Thanks again for writing,

Sincerely,



George Bush

Mrs. William C. Finkenstaedt
32 Hendrie Lane
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

Mr. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible signature]

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213-559-4038

February 15, 1976

MRS. WILLIAM C. FINKENSTAEDT
32 HENDRIE LANE
GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN 48236

Dear Poppy -

If this note ever reaches you, I'll be surprised - I have no idea what address to use - but here goes - by way of your mother & Flannda - (Guess there is no hope that will find you there this vacation - should you get down, we'd all love to see you. Billy enjoyed seeing you at the alfalfa).

I just watched you on "60 Minutes" - and you were absolutely terrific, superb and handled Mike like the pro that you are!! Mike Wallace was ruthless and vicious, and you

just handled him perfectly!
You came across with great
dignity, honesty and credibility -
the likes of which we haven't seen
in a long, long time. He never got
to you (I got hot under the collar), and
you answered all his tough and
probing questions directly.

You really won the ball game
with your story about the intelligence
of anyone taking on the job of the
head of the CIA. It made all
of us very proud to know that
an outstanding citizen is in there
doing an unbelievably tough job -
and with such guts and class.

To all the Busters we send
our tenderest regards - and best
to you all - Fondly -

Chris Finkenstaedt

76-6942/A

27 FEB 1976

Mr. Abe J. Friedman
Suite 700
The Financial Center
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Abe:

Thanks ever so much for your nice note of February 16. It was good of you and Harriet to spend the time in front of the tube, and then to send me your good wishes.

Speaking of who looks healthy and trim, that picture of you looks as if you could smash a few forehands without too much trouble, and I hope we can do a bit of that when I next drop by Des Moines.

The President has placed a very full plate in front of me with this new job, and I'm gratified to get encouragement from old friends.

Barbara joins me in sending greetings to both of you.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush
Director

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государства Южная Америка и в соответствии с тем, что по состоянию на 76 лет.

FROM THE AIRCRAFT
HE SAW THE "BIG BOY" AND I, IN EFFECT, SO HE DISCLOSED THAT
THE AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY A BOMB AND THAT THERE WERE TWO OF

I have told you my own story.
 See what I have done. I have been to the
 of the world as it is. I have been to the
 of the world as it is. I have been to the

17. **ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ**
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February 16, 1976

As Advertised in ...

Dear George,

Executive Registry

76-6942

Newsweek®

Last evening on TV, the "60 Minutes" program, Harriet and I watched you with great admiration and profound respect. You looked healthy and trim and you were surely masterful in handling all of his prodding and all of his questioning. Happy Congratulations and all Good Wishes on your appointment as Director of The Central Intelligence Agency. I am positive that you will be an outstanding Director.

Maybe you can visit us in Des Moines some week end for a few sets of Tennis and some Midwest relaxation.

Our Kindest Regards to you and Barbara, and the Very Best of Good Luck to you in your High and Important Office.

Cordially,

Abe



ABE J. FRIEDMAN

ERREERENCU Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

FIRE IN CHAPEL IN NURSING HOME KILLS 13

CHICAGO, ILL. (AP) — Fire broke out on the top floor of a nursing home and smoke poured into a chapel where elderly residents were attending Mass Friday, killing 13 patients and injuring more than 30 other persons.

Most of the victims were in the chapel of the four-story brick building. "If they had been in their rooms nothing would have happened," Fire Commissioner Robert Quinn said.

Many of the injured, who ranged in age from 65 to 82, were evacuated in wheelchairs. Some patients who could walk fled down a fire escape.

"I've lost a lot of people," one nurse said as tears ran down her face. She and two other nurses were taken by police to identify the victims.

Officials said there were about 100 persons, including about 80 patients, in the building at noon when the blaze started. The flames were extinguished an hour later. Fire officials said the fire apparently started in a closet.

Saw Smoke

Although the flames spread to the chapel, the priest who was saying Mass there said that all he saw was smoke.

LASERPHOTO (AP)



A kiss for the President

President Ford is kissed by Mrs. George Bush Friday after her husband, left, was sworn in as new director of the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Va. Bush succeeds William Colby.

March 1, 1976

Dear Edith,

Thanks ever so much for your thoughtful letter of February 18th. I agree with you about some aspects of the Pike Committee Report. This question of leaking documents and "emphasizing the negative," really depresses me.

The new job is going okay and I really enjoy it.

I still have very clear and happy memories of your visit to Peking.

Warmest regards,

Sincerely,



George Bush

The Honorable Edith Green
1209 S. W. Sixth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205

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Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

ER

MAR 4 10 49 AM '76

Portland, Oregon 97202
1500 2nd Avenue
The Honorable Edith Green

George Bush



Sincerely,

Warmest regards,

of your visit to Beijing.

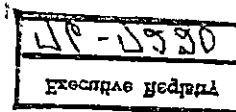
I still have very clear and happy memories
enjoy it.

The new job is going okay and I really
missing the negative," really depresses me.
This question of leaking documents and "embus-
sion" some aspects of the Pike Committee Report.
letter of February 18th. I agree with you

Thanks ever so much for your thoughtful

Best Edith

March 1, 1976





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

EDITH GREEN
PORTLAND, OREGON

February 18, 1976

The Honorable George Bush
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

Just a brief note to tell you how magnificent I thought you were on the Mike Wallace SIXTY MINUTES Sunday evening. I particularly liked the way that you responded to some of his insolent questions. I wish more public officials would respond in a similar manner. I am all for a free press but I am increasingly irritated by the arrogance of some reporters.

The operations of the Otis Pike Committee are beyond my comprehension. I am keenly aware of the extreme partisanship of Otis Pike and his dream that he might be the next Senator from New York. However, some of their actions in recent months have been inexcusable. I, for one, want a strong Central Intelligence Agency, but obviously with tight controls.

My very best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

EDITH GREEN
1209 S. W. Sixth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205

from Edith

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

March 1, 1976

Dear Vic,

Thanks for your kind words about the
60 Minutes program. I have been very tired
lately--there's so darn much to do here, but
everything seems to be moving along well.

I hope our paths cross before too long.

Yours very truly,



George Bush
Director

Mr. Victor J. Hancock
2009 Nantucket
Richardson, Texas 75080

Victor J. Hancock
2009 Nantucket
Richardson, Texas 75080

February 20, 1976

Mr. George Bush, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear George:

I am sitting here in the Lubbock office of HUD — serving as the Acting Director — watching the West Texas dust blow in all its fury. It's been a busy day, the office is now closed, and I got to thinking about seeing your interview on Sixty Minutes.

You looked good, but tired; please take the time to rest and conserve your energies for those things, yet to come, that need your unique talents. Your comments toward the end of the program relating to the 'funny line' "anyone dumb enough. . . ." were particularly gratifying. One individual here asked me if I had seen the program and then went on to say how impressed he had been.

I noted also that your dealing with questions that, first, should not be asked and, secondly, cannot be answered may pose a problem to your innate propensity for candor.

Like all of your friends, I hated to see the Vice Presidential possibility pulled away. I note, however, you are not precluded from being President.

We wish you continued success and God's blessings in your assignment.

Best regards to Bar.

We're all well here and basking in the glory of grandparenthood.

Sincerely,



March 1, 1976

Dear Jim,

What a thoughtful note. How you find time from a busy schedule to be so darn considerate, I don't know.

This new job is great. I look forward to working with you and I appreciate your comments on the 60 Minutes show.

Warm regards,



George Bush

Admiral J. L. Holloway III, USN
Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington, D.C. 20350



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

24 February 1976

Dear George,

I happened to catch the TV program "Sixty Minutes" on Sunday evening, 15 February, and I wanted you to know how impressed I was with your performance.

In spite of Mike Wallace's harrassment, and the film editing which appeared designed to result in nonsequiturs, your responses were clear, concise and straightforward. I thought you handled yourself in a magnificent fashion and I am sure that my impression would have to be shared by any other thoughtful viewer. I was glad I had the opportunity to watch you on the program.

With best personal regards,

Jim
J. L. HOLLOWAY III
Admiral, U.S. Navy

The Honorable George Bush
-- Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

March 1, 1976

Dear Matthew,

Thank you for your warm letter. I was delighted to get it. I appreciate your frank and candid advice. Sometimes when one gets all wrought up in the public arena, I expect one makes slips and fails to realize that his expletives are very embarrassing and are not very attractive. I do appreciate your calling this to my attention.

Our son George just joined the First Presbyterian Church in Midland the other day and you can imagine how pleased that made us. Barbara is fine. Please give our love to Tommy. As long as I live I will always treasure our friendship.

Sincerely,



George Bush
Director

Mr. Matthew Lynn
First Presbyterian Church
Harwood Street at Wood
Dallas, Texas 75201

First Presbyterian Church

Harwood Street at Wood

Dallas, Texas

February 19, 1974.

Dear George,

Sunday evening, as you came on T.V. — "60 Minutes", three Midlanders walked into our home — Mrs. Ted Hefner, Mr & Mrs Richard Peters.

We all agreed you handled a difficult assignment in great style.

Allow me a suggestion: you have allowed yourself to slip into the habit of responding to the difficult ones, beginning with "God" "My God" or describing the unpleasant as "damn".

It is my strong feeling that this is a mistake you should eliminate. You are forceful enough without such. This does not help your "image" with those who do not know you.

Tommy joins me in kindest regards to you and Barbara and with prayers in your difficult task.

Sincerely,
Nathan Spurr

February 20, 1976

Dear Bob,

Just a quick note to thank you for your thoughtful telegram and your kind words about my 60 Minutes appearance.

The country needs a vital CIA and I'm proud to be working here.

Warmest regards to you and Charlotte.

Sincerely,



George Bush
Director

Mr. Robert Overstreet
3113 Pittsburgh
Houston, Texas 77005

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HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, DIRECTOR CIA
WASHINGTON DC 20505

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Bob
Sent to Charlotte

LIKED THE WAY YOU HANDLED YOURSELF ON SIXTY MINUTES. OUR COUNTRY IS
FORTUNATE TO HAVE YOU IN THIS IMPORTANT POST. YOU WILL HAVE OUR PRAYERS
AND BEST WISHES. CHARLOTTE JOINS ME WITH LOVE TO BARBARA AND YOUR
FAMILY.

BOB OVERSTREET
3113 PITTSBURGH
HOUSTON TX 77005

20:32 EST

MGMWSHU HSC

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

February 20, 1976

Dear Hunt,

Thanks so much for your thoughtful note of February 16th, and your kind words about my recent television appearance.

The new job is a real challenge, but the country needs a vital CIA and I'm proud to be working here.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,



George Bush
Director

Mr. Huntington M. Turner
61 Broadway
New York, New York 10006

MAR 4 10 00 AM '76

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K
D
Thanks
(Do not encourage
him to call

HUNTINGTON M. TURNER
61 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006

Feb. 16th 1972

Dear George:-

You did a great job on Mike
Wallace's "60 Minutes" program last night

Despite the fact that many listeners would think the high light of the interview was the discussion of the Angolan situation, I thought it was your reference to the newspaper men who make a joke of the CIA and you told Wallace that it must keep down in your underwear and that you were going to do everything in your power to bring the usage of the CIA back into focus and that in no way are you playing politics - "That a boy."

I'm loathe about answering this -
I would like to talk to you sometime about China.

Best regards - I may be in Washington
the middle of April - if so will call you.
Sincerely, Hunt.