



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

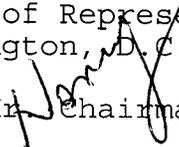
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Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

December 5, 2000

Honorable Henry J. Hyde  
Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr.  Chairman:

President Clinton will soon have before him the decision about whether to commute the consecutive life sentences of Leonard Peltier. Peltier was convicted of the execution-style murders of two FBI Agents as they lay wounded and helpless after suffering an overwhelming ambush.

I would like to share with you the enclosed letters to Attorney General Janet Reno and President Clinton. I have asked the Attorney General to personally intercede on behalf of the employees of the FBI and, at the request of FBI employees, asked President Clinton not to commute the life sentences.

In my seven years as FBI Director, I have not seen a position felt as strongly or shared as widely as the opposition to this possibility. Ignoring for a moment the extreme and remorseless brutality of the acts themselves, our employees see Peltier's crimes as a complete affront to our cherished system of government under the rule of law. I hear nothing but abhorrence that there is a possibility, let alone a probability, that Peltier could be released despite repeated open expression of a willingness to murder law enforcement officers and, in the case of Agents Coler and Williams, doing so without hesitation.

Honorable Henry J. Hyde

I bring this urgent matter to your attention because it is of such great significance to the men and women of the FBI. As people dedicated to serving the public in ways that honor and respect the rule of law, I believe we all must raise our voices of objection to any possibility that one can so brutally attach our very system of government, be justly convicted and then set free.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis J. Freeh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Louis J. Freeh  
Director

Enclosures



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

December 5, 2000

The Honorable Bill Clinton  
President of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to share with you a letter I sent to Attorney General Janet Reno regarding Leonard Peltier and respectfully request that the consecutive life sentences Peltier is serving for the brutal murder of two FBI Agents not be commuted. I make this request on behalf of the Agents and employees of the FBI who have asked me to do so on their behalf. It is they and the families of the two slain Agents who will most suffer the hurt and shaken confidence in policing under the rule of law that Peltier's release is certain to cause.

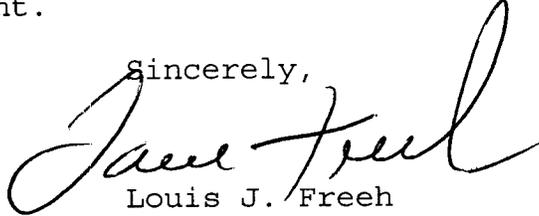
After a lengthy trial and despite repeated appeals, the facts have not changed. FBI Special Agents Ron A. Williams and Jack R. Coler were grievously wounded during an overwhelming ambush as they searched for a bank robbery suspect. While disabled they were executed at point blank range. Both were shot in the head, Agent Williams as he held up his hand in a desperate attempt to shield his face from the blast. Peltier was convicted by a jury for these murders, a brutal and cold-blooded episode in the middle of other instances of total disregard for life and disrespect for the laws that govern us all. His conviction has stood the test of multiple appeals to multiple courts including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. President, there is no issue more deeply felt within the FBI or more widely shared within the law enforcement community than the belief that this attack by Peltier was nothing less than a complete affront to our cherished system of government under the rule of law. The inevitable haziness brought on by the passage of time does not diminish the brutality of the crimes or the torment to the surviving families. But we in the law enforcement family respectfully ask that you look beyond the actual crimes to what these remorseless acts represent. To both the servants of the public charged with protecting their safety and to the protected, the premeditated execution of two young FBI Agents is the most vile disrespect for all that we cherish under our law and our God and for which moderation can only signal disrespect.

The Honorable Bill Clinton

Finally, the families of Agents Coler and Williams have asked that I extend their plea to you as well. Theirs is the lifelong agony few can understand. For that reason and many others, some that we share, they respectfully plead to you that the vicious murderer of a son and a father not be heroically elevated above the cold and hardened criminal he chose to be and that brought him to this point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louis J. Freeh".

Louis J. Freeh  
Director

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

December 5, 2000

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Madam Attorney General:

From recent press accounts it seems certain that the President will review and decide the clemency issue regarding Leonard Peltier before the end of this Administration. If past practice is indicative, he will decide the issue before the upcoming holidays. Accordingly, this matter is of extreme urgency to the FBI.

As you know, I have both spoken with you and written you about our view on this possibility. There is no issue more strongly opposed by the rank-and-file of the FBI than the prospect of releasing this murderer of two young FBI Agents. There is no dissent within our agency on this point, only the widespread belief that the criminal justice system of the United States rightly convicted and repeatedly affirmed that Peltier is nothing other than a cold blooded killer who shot two ambushed and wounded FBI Agents at point blank range as they lay helpless before him.

I have spoken to many, many people within our organization about the possibility Peltier would be freed. Our employees' request to you is that you do everything within your power to persuade the President not to take this action. However strongly I may agree with them about this issue, this letter represents the voices of thousands of FBI employees everywhere. I merely have the honor of representing their position to you.

I also ask, please do not let this happen. I respectfully request that you communicate the strongest possible position against the prospect of Peltier's release directly to the President. I, likewise, intend to do so because respect for the rule of law calls for it, our employees demand it, and the families of the two slain Agents deserve it.

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

The families of these two fine Agents have always made the same request.

Agent Coler, 28, was survived by his wife and their two young children, Paul, then age one, and Ron, then age four. In 1994, Agent Coler's widow, Peggy, wrote to the FBI explaining her position on a possible commutation of Peltier's sentence.

In that letter, Mrs. Coler emphasized: "I am speaking for the entire Coler family when I state that we are unanimously opposed to any commutation of Leonard Peltier's sentence. He committed two brutal murders of young law enforcement officers in the prime of their lives.

"I cannot begin to explain adequately the devastating effect Jack's murder has had on me and my family. How does a young widow explain to her sons of ages 4 and 1 why they will never see their daddy again?

"How could I begin to explain to them that not only was their daddy shot to death, but it was done at point blank range while he lay unconscious on the ground."

The survivors of Agent Williams, 27, included his mother, Mrs. Ellen Williams. Also in 1994, she told the FBI she also opposed commutation of Peltier's sentences: "His release back to society will add to the list of grieving loved ones as I am convinced he will commit a violent act against others. He's a very violent man."

Mrs. Williams told the FBI, "As a mother who has lost her son you try to remember your child as he was. However, all I can think of is the last minutes of Ron's life and how scared he must have been." She said the impact of losing her son is immeasurable and "too painful and personal to express."

Because this matter is of such enormous importance to the Department of Justice, FBI, and state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide, a detailed account of the case follows.

On June 26, 1975, Agents Coler and Williams, in separate cars, were searching on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota for a fugitive--not Peltier--who was being sought on a robbery warrant and believed to be in a red car.

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

The events that followed are described in the opinion of a three-judge panel of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals that unanimously rejected in 1978 a Peltier appeal from his murder convictions.

"The Agents were following three individuals riding in a red and white van that had entered the compound shortly before them," the Eighth Circuit opinion said.

"The van stopped at a fork in the road leading to Tent City. The Agents stopped at the bottom of a hill. Williams advised Coler on the radio that the occupants of the van were about to fire on them. Firing commenced. Other AIM (American Indian Movement) members who were present at the Jumping Bull Compound or Tent City thereafter joined in the shooting.

"The Agents took heavy fire. Over 125 bullet holes were found in their cars. In contrast, only five shell casings attributable to the Agents' guns were ever found at the scene.

"Both Agents were wounded by bullets fired from a distance. Special Agent Coler was wounded by a bullet that traveled through the trunk lid of his car and struck his right arm.

"The force of the bullet almost took his arm off, rendering him completely disabled and causing him to lose blood rapidly. He crawled to the left side of his car, away from the gunfire.

"Williams was shot in the left shoulder. The bullet traveled from his shoulder, under his arm and into his side. Although wounded, Williams removed his shirt and attempted to make a tourniquet for Coler's arm. Williams at some point was also shot in the right foot.

"These wounds were not fatal. The Agents were killed with a high velocity, small caliber weapon fired at point blank range.

"Williams attempted to shield his face from the blast with his right hand, turning his head slightly to the right.

"The murderer placed the barrel of his gun against Williams' hand and fired. The bullet ripped through Williams' hand, into his face, and carried away the back of his head. He was killed instantly."

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

"The murderer shot Coler, who was unconscious, across the top of the head. The bullet carried away a part of his forehead at the hairline.

"The shot was not fatal, however. The murderer then lowered his rifle a few inches and shot Coler through the jaw. The shell exploded inside his head, killing him instantly," the Eighth Circuit opinion said.

An exhaustive investigation by the FBI was summarized in a 20-page report titled "RESMURS" (an acronym for "Reservation Murders"). It said:

"An examination of the physical evidence concluded that Agents Williams and Coler had been killed at close range by a .223 type bullet. According to witnesses, Peltier was identified as the only person in possession of a weapon that would fire a .223 bullet type at the time of the murders. The weapon was an AR-15."

A 39-page summary of the case was prepared from the trial record by the United States Attorney's Office for the Director of North Dakota, which prosecuted Peltier. It said the investigation showed that only five rounds had been fired by the two FBI Agents.

After being fired upon, Agent Coler had opened the trunk of his car to obtain his long weapons and it was apparently in that sequence of events that he suffered his first terrible wound by a bullet that pierced the trunk lid and hit his arm.

A few minutes later, Coler was unconscious from his wound and Williams also was gravely wounded.

The report by the U.S. Attorney's Office said, "It would appear that at this point, SA (Special Agent) Williams attempted to surrender. This is, of course, an assumption, but it is supported by the physical evidence.

"Williams still had ammunition, as is shown in the autopsy photos...he still could have fired his handgun with his good arm..." the report said. It added that there was no other explanation for how the killer could have gotten close enough to Agent Williams to shoot him at point-blank range.

When he was murdered, "Williams was probably not standing, because of his foot wound, and as shown by mud on the knees of his trousers," the report said.

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

Agent Coler was shot in the top of the head and then shot in the head again, the report said. It added: "SA Coler's blood was splattered against the car.

"One of the cartridges from one of these fatal shots was ejected into the open trunk of Coler's car," the report said.

The shell casing was a .223 caliber and was a major piece of evidence in convicting Peltier of the murder charges. The government contended that the shell casing had been ejected from the AR-15 rifle used to murder the two Agents.

"Witness testimony established that Peltier was the only person carrying an AR-15 rifle at the time of the murders and Peltier was seen at the location of the Agents' bodies carrying his AR-15," the RESMURS report said.

In all, four witnesses identified the AR-15 as Peltier's weapon.

In one of its opinions rejecting a Peltier appeal, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals said, "According to the doctor who performed the autopsies, the Agents were shot with a high velocity, small caliber weapon.

"Peltier carried his AR-15 out with him when he and the other participants of the shooting escaped from the reservation and fled to the Rosebud Reservation, where they remained for some time before splitting up," the Eighth Circuit said.

Michael Anderson, an AIM member who admitted shooting at the cars of the two FBI Agents, became a witness for the prosecution. Among other things, Anderson testified that he saw Peltier standing by the cars of the FBI Agents. "Peltier at the time was holding an AR-15," the Eighth Circuit said.

Anderson also said that he himself loaded a car with weapons, including an AR-15 rifle, before he and two other men left the Rosebud Reservation. Peltier fled in another direction.

In September of 1975, Anderson and others were in a car that blew up on the Kansas Turnpike near Wichita when exhaust heat apparently set off explosives in the trunk.

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

Investigators searching the car's wreckage found Agent Coler's .308 rifle and an AR-15 rifle later termed the "Wichita AR-15" by the courts. The Eighth Circuit said it was "the AR-15 the government contended Peltier used on the day of the murders."

The Eighth Circuit continued: "Ammunition components linked ballistically to the same AR-15 were found at the crime scene. The (government's) ballistics expert was unable to fire the AR-15 because it had been damaged in the explosion on the Kansas Turnpike.

"However, he was able to remove the bolt from it, place the bolt in another AR-15, and test fire the replacement AR-15.

"The expert testified that a .223 cartridge casing found in the trunk of (Agent) Coler's car had been loaded into and extracted from the AR-15.

"He also testified that a .22 caliber copper bullet jacket found in the ground underneath the bodies of (Agents) Coler and Williams had rifling impressions consistent with the rifling of the barrel of an AR-15," the Eighth Circuit said. The Court said there was no testimony to indicate that two men seen with Peltier at the crime scene at the time of the murders had a weapon that fired .22 caliber bullets.

The RESMURS report also discussed the shell casing found in the trunk of Agent Coler's car and the AR-15 rifle. It said at one point: "An examination by the FBI Laboratory made a positive match with a .223 shell casing found in the trunk of Agent Coler's car and marks produced by the extractor of Peltier's AR-15."

At another point, the RESMURS report said: "The .223 shell casing recovered from the trunk of Agent Coler's car had identifiable extractor markings which were made by the rifle that fired one of the bullets. These extractor markings on the casing matched the AR-15 rifle that was recovered in Kansas from the car that exploded and contained Peltier's associates.

"An AR-15 is a semi-automatic rifle which fires a .223 caliber bullet. This caliber is a small, high-velocity bullet that is consistent with bullet fragments found in and under the Agents' bodies," the report said.

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

In 1986, the Eighth Circuit rejected another appeal by Peltier. The opinion was written by Judge Gerald W. Heaney, and it contained this passage:

"When all is said and done, however, a few simple but very important facts remain. The casing (from the trunk of Agent Coler's car) introduced into evidence had in fact been extracted from the Wichita AR-15. This point was not disputed; although the defense had its own ballistics expert, it offered no contrary evidence."

After Peltier's appeals to the Eighth Circuit were rejected and the Circuit affirmed his convictions, Peltier twice sought to have the U.S. Supreme Court grant him hearings and overturn his convictions. The Department of Justice vigorously opposed Supreme Court review of Peltier's convictions, and the Supreme Court denied both of Peltier's petitions for writs of certiorari.

In February of 1979, Solicitor General Wade H. McCree, Jr., formerly a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, submitted to the Supreme Court the Justice Department's first brief in opposition to Peltier's initial certiorari petition. The Solicitor General's brief described in detail Peltier's flight from the Rosebud Reservation in the aftermath of the murders, as did the RESMURS report and the study by the U.S. Attorney's Office for North Dakota.

Peltier and associates were in two vehicles when he was stopped by police in Oregon. Peltier fired a shot at a police officer and fled; Peltier stole a rifle and pickup truck from an area resident; and he continued on to Canada. Months later, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) apprehended Peltier in Canada and he was extradited to the U.S.

The Solicitor General's brief emphasized that Peltier believed that the two FBI Agents who were murdered at the Pine Ridge Reservation were seeking to arrest him on a Wisconsin state warrant charging attempted murder. In fact, the FBI Agents were trying to arrest another man on the reservation for robbery.

Solicitor General McCree told the Supreme Court: "The following evidence linked petitioner (Peltier) to the murders:

"(1) Petitioner had a motive to kill the Agents, since he believed that they were on the reservation to arrest him on a state warrant charging him with attempted murder;

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

"(2) Petitioner was an occupant of the van that the Agents had followed onto the reservation;

"(3) Petitioner was seen, just prior to the moment that the wounded Agents were killed, standing by their automobiles with two other individuals, Robert Eugene Robideau and Darrell Dean Butler, holding what ballistic and other evidence identified as the murder weapon;

"(4) On the evening after the murders had occurred, Petitioner was overheard discussing certain details of the murders with Robideau and Butler;

"(5) Petitioner fled first the reservation, then South Dakota, and finally from the United States to Canada, resisting arrest with deadly force when he was stopped in Oregon in the course of his flight; and

"(6) At the time of Petitioner's attempted arrest in Oregon, the revolver of one of the slain Agents was found, in a bag bearing petitioner's thumbprint, in the vehicle in which he was riding."

In searching the two vehicles used by Peltier and his companions in Oregon, police found 14 firearms, a large number of bullets, and nine hand grenades.

Solicitor General McCree expanded on key points later in his brief. For example, McCree said: "Petitioner's claim that he was prejudiced by the improper admission of evidence of other crimes and other weapons was subjected to particularly close and exhaustive scrutiny by the Court below. There is no reason to disturb its careful conclusions.

"The evidence that petitioner was wanted on a state attempted murder charge was plainly relevant, as the Court of Appeals held...to establish the motive for his murder of the Agents."

The Solicitor General emphasized the events in Oregon during Peltier's flight:

"The evidence concerning Petitioner's resisting arrest in Oregon by the use of deadly force and subsequent theft of a rifle and pick-up truck from a nearby residence was admissible to show proof of flight, which in turn was relevant to show his consciousness of guilt...."

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

"As the Court of Appeals noted...Petitioner fled the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation immediately after the murders and remained a fugitive until he was arrested in Canada seven months later; the Oregon events were a continuation of that immediate flight.

"The two vehicles in which Petitioner and his companions were proceeding at the time of the attempted arrest were traveling arsenals linked by communications devices and codes manifestly designed to avoid arrest...'

"More important, one of the vehicles contained evidence (Agent Coler's revolver) directly linking Petitioner to the murders.

"In addition, Petitioner's theft of a vehicle and a firearm immediately after being separated from his means of transportation and his arsenal, other than the sidearm he used to effectuate his escape, was relevant to show the continuing flight.

"In short as the Court below correctly held..., the test enunciated in United States v. Myers...for determining the probative value of flight as circumstantial evidence of guilt was fully met in this case," Solicitor General McCree said.

In 1987, the Department of Justice once again firmly opposed another Peltier petition to the Supreme Court.

This time, a detailed brief was filed by Solicitor General Charles Fried, formerly a professor at the Harvard Law School. Fried said there was no merit to Peltier's claims. Once again, the Supreme Court dismissed Peltier's petition without comment.

The RESMURS report and the report of the U.S. Attorney's office for North Dakota both described Peltier's violent behavior and threats in his flight from South Dakota to Canada before his arrest.

In November 1975, the U.S. Attorney's Office report said, a Plymouth station wagon and a recreational vehicle (RV) were stopped by Oregon State Trooper Ken Griffith.

"Peltier exited the RV, fired at Griffith, and fled. Trooper Griffith fired at Peltier as he scrambled over the highway fence. He believed he hit Peltier."

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

"SA Coler's revolver was found in a bag with Leonard Peltier's fingerprint on it, under the front seat of the RV."

Later, the report said, Peltier's fingerprints were found in a burglarized ranch house in the area.

"He (Peltier) acknowledged to Mounties (RCMP) he had been shot in Oregon as he escaped over the fence after having fired at the patrol officer.

"When asked if he knew what he was wanted for, he said yes, 'the two FBI Agents were shot when they came to a house to serve a warrant...' Peltier identified the warrant as the attempted murder charge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin," the report said.

In its description of the case, the RESMURS report said that Peltier was hiding at an Indian Reservation in Alberta, Canada, when arrested by the RCMP.

"Peltier was heavily armed at the time of his arrest, and stated he would have blown the RCMP out of their shoes if he had known they were coming for him," the report said.

At his sentencing on the two murder convictions, Peltier said he was a victim of discrimination because he was an American Indian.

Chief U.S. District Judge Paul Benson told Peltier: "You profess an interest and a dedication to the native people of this country, but you have performed a great disservice to those native people."

It also is important to note that all four of the government trial witnesses who placed Peltier at the scene of the murders are American Indians.

In addition, there is this account in the report of the U.S. Attorney's Office on the apprehension of Peltier at the camp of Chief Small Boy on the Indian Reservation in Canada:

"At the time of his arrest in Canada by the Mounties, the defendant was heavily armed.

"When asked by Chief Small Boy what he would have done had he known the Mounties were coming, he said he would have blown them out of their shoes."

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

"When the Chief asked if he would have started a firefight with the Chief's grandchildren present, the defendant (Peltier) answered only, 'Well, it's my life.'"

After Peltier's convictions for murdering the two Agents, he escaped from a federal prison where he was serving his two life terms. After being apprehended, he was convicted of escape and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The U.S. District Court in the Central District of California sentenced Peltier to five years in prison on the escape count and two years in prison on the firearms count.

Notably, the court said that the two terms would be served consecutively to Peltier's two consecutive life terms.

In his appeal, Peltier claimed that he escaped because the government planned to harm him in prison.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in affirming both of Peltier's escape-related convictions, said: "No imaginable set of circumstances could be drawn from the offers of proof to justify the armed jail break that took place."

As noted above, Judge Gerald W. Heaney of the Eighth Circuit wrote the 1986 opinion affirming Peltier's convictions for the two murders. In doing so, he obviously had no doubts of any legal magnitude concerning Peltier's guilt.

In 1991, Judge Heaney said in a letter to Senator Daniel Inouye that there should be "favorable action" by the President in any petition for leniency that Peltier might file. In his letter to Senator Inouye, however, Judge Heaney made this statement that strongly supports the Peltier convictions: "no new evidence has been called to my attention which would cause me to change the conclusion reached in that case."

On this very point, U.S. Attorney John Schneider of North Dakota told the Pardon Attorney in a March, 1994, letter that Judge Heaney had reaffirmed in a television interview "that he believed Peltier got a fair trial." In that television interview, Heaney said: "I believe he (Peltier) got a fair trial."

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

Since his conviction, Peltier has filed many appeals. All were rejected. His convictions have been affirmed. He has twice sought review by the Supreme Court, which twice denied his petitions without comment.

It is important to list all of these court actions to show the consistent positions of the federal judiciary in denying Peltier's motions and appeals. The listing:

- \* Peltier appealed his conviction to the Eighth Circuit. His conviction was affirmed (1978). Certiorari was denied by the U.S. Supreme Court (1979).

- \* Peltier filed another motion to dismiss Judge Benson. It was denied. Peltier then sought review by the Eighth Circuit. The Eighth Circuit denied Peltier's motion (1984).

- \* Peltier appealed to the Eighth Circuit the District Court's decision on the firearms teletype issue. The Eighth Circuit affirmed the District Court and denied Peltier's motion for a new trial (1986).

- \* The Supreme Court denied Peltier's certiorari petition (1987).

- \* Additional filings by Peltier at the Magistrate and District Court levels resulted in his motions being denied. Peltier appealed again to the Eighth Circuit, which once again rejected his appeal (1993).

Peltier has not filed a new certiorari petition, instead apparently now deciding that the only way he will be released from prison is by executive clemency.

For reasons documented in great detail, Peltier should not receive executive clemency or a commutation of his sentences.

It would be the greatest metamorphosis in the history of criminal justice if Peltier could convince the nation that, as he claims, he is completely innocent of everything, or even that he is undeserving of the punishment imposed.

But in fact there is no change: he was convicted of murdering two FBI Agents; he shot at an Oregon Police Officer; he escaped from prison and was armed with a rifle when recaptured.

Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

Peltier must be hoping to capitalize on the gambit used by other violent criminals to be freed from prison: that the passage of time will diminish public outrage at the crimes, and that the public's memory will grow dim and vague about the offender's cruelty and the dreadful murder of the innocent.

But there are some persons who will never forget the murders for which Peltier was rightly convicted, some persons for whom there is no medicine on Earth that can ever cure their life-long pain.

And so, as the concluding argument against clemency for Peltier, here is the text of the letter sent to me on June 7, 1994, by Agent Coler's widow, Peggy, and their two sons:

"I am speaking for the entire Coler family when I state that we are unanimously opposed to any commutation of Leonard Peltier's sentence. He committed two brutal murders of young law enforcement officers in the prime of their lives. Where would the justice be if Peltier was freed from jail after serving only 17 years when he stole a good 50 years of life from each of his two victims? There was enough evidence at his trial to convict him of double murder and sentence him to two consecutive life sentences. And that's where Peltier should remain for the rest of his life--in jail!

"Leonard Peltier is a dangerous individual who was wanted on a felony warrant for attempted murder of a law enforcement officer at the time he murdered Jack Coler and Ronald Williams. Following the FBI Agent killings, he was also wanted on another felony warrant for attempted murder of a law enforcement officer in Oregon as he was attempting to escape to Canada. Does this sound like a man that should be put back on the streets?

"I cannot begin to explain adequately the devastating effect Jack's murder has had on me and my family. How does a young widow explain to her sons ages 4 and 1 why they will never see their daddy again? How could I begin to explain to them that not only was their daddy shot to death, but it was done at point blank range while he lay unconscious on the ground? What kind of a human being blasts two point blank range bullets into a helpless man?

"Paul, our younger son, was not quite two years old at the time. It tears him apart that he doesn't have one single memory of his dad. Imagine that--he can look at pictures but

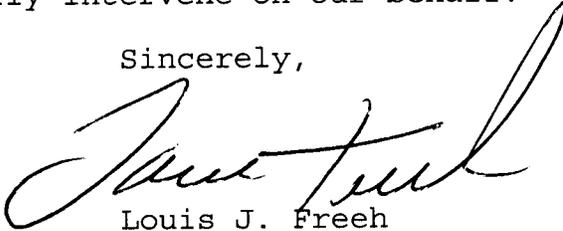
Honorable Janet Reno  
The Attorney General

remember absolutely nothing! Our older son, Ron, was 4 years old. He has dim memories at best and has deep regrets that he was robbed of the opportunity to really know his dad.

"These are the words of Ron: 'This man murdered my father and left my mother alone in the world to raise 2 young children. He has been portrayed as a victim, an innocent man, a political prisoner, even a hero. He is a murderer--a cold blooded killer who shot my dad in the face at point blank range. The thought of Peltier going free makes me sick. How could anyone let him go free?'"

Nothing has changed since I received these heart-stricken words. The facts remain horrendous. The crimes remain sickeningly brutal. The entire episode by Peltier remains an affront to the very principles to which you and I have dedicated our lives and to which every employee in the FBI stands firm. We all urge you to personally intervene on our behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louis J. Freeh".

Louis J. Freeh  
Director