



U. S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

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Office of the Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 17, 1995

RP

The Honorable Bill Bradley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3001

Dear Senator Bradley:

Your recent letter to the Attorney General regarding the bombing of Fraunces Tavern in New York City has been referred to the Criminal Division for response. A constituent of yours, Mr. Joseph Connor, has contacted you regarding the status of the investigation into the incident, and the status of William G. Morales, a fugitive who is alleged to be a member of the FALN.

The bombing of Fraunces Tavern on January 24, 1975, was one of a series of bombings for which a purported representative of the FALN claimed responsibility. Extensive investigation failed to develop any prime suspects in the Fraunces Tavern bombing, and, as a result, no one was ever charged with the crime.

With respect to Mr. Morales, he was severely injured on July 12, 1978, when an explosion occurred in an FALN facility in Queens, New York. Evidence recovered from the explosion linked Morales to many bombing incidents for which the FALN claimed responsibility, and he was charged with federal criminal offenses. However, Morales escaped from confinement in a New York City hospital in May 1979, and disappeared until May 1983, when he was captured in Puebla, Mexico. In June 1988, Morales traveled to the island of Cuba. Since that time, the Government of Cuba apparently has provided Morales safe harbor. Investigative efforts by the Federal Bureau of Investigation remain in effect to apprehend Morales and to bring him to justice.

I hope that the foregoing information satisfactorily responds to your letter.

Sincerely,

Mark M Richard
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

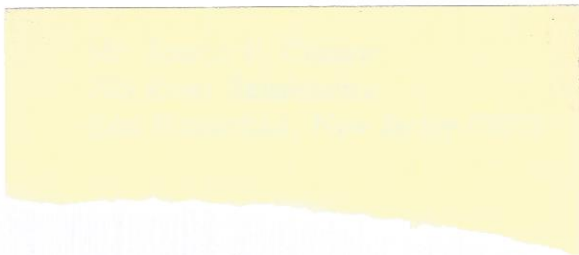
BILL BRADLEY
NEW JERSEY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

April 26, 1995

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
AGING



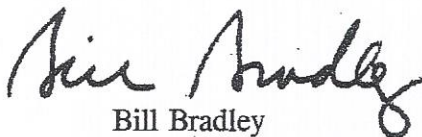
Dear Mr. Connor:

Thank you for contacting me in regard to the 1975 bombing at Fraunces Tavern.
Your comments are always welcome.

I have written to Attorney General Reno (letter attached) regarding this matter. I will
be in touch with you again as soon as I receive a response.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Bill Bradley
United States Senator

BB/rp

BILL BRADLEY
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ENERGY AND
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

April 26, 1995

The Honorable Janet Reno
United States Attorney General
Department of Justice
Main Justice Building, Room 5111
10th and Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

I am writing to you regarding the bombing of Fraunces Tavern in New York City on January 24, 1975. As you may recall, the FALN claimed responsibility for this incident, in which four people were killed and many more injured.

One of those killed was Frank Connor. His son, Joseph Connor of East Rutherford, New Jersey, has written me regarding the status of this investigation. Specifically, Mr. Connor is interested in the status of the alleged leader of the FALN, a Mr. Morales, who escaped from jail prior to facing trial. Mr. Connor believes Mr. Morales is presently residing in Cuba.

While I am aware that there is no extradition treaty between Cuba and the United States, I would appreciate if you could update me on any developments regarding this matter.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill Bradley
United States Senator

BB/tp

cc: The Honorable Warren M. Christopher



U. S. Department of Justice
Criminal Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

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Dear Mr. Connor:

Your letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, in which you request a greater recognition on the part of the U.S. government of the terrorist crimes perpetrated by the FALN in the 1970's, has been forwarded to the Criminal Division for response. We apologize for our delay in responding.

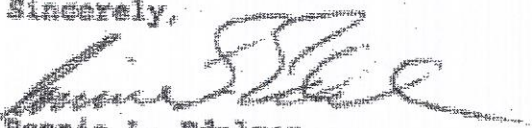
In your letter, you express your desire that the crimes committed by William Morales, the alleged leader of the FALN presently residing in Cuba, and by other members of the FALN be publicly condemned by the U.S. Government as crimes of terrorism. William Morales was sentenced in New York to a 20- to 30-year prison term on state charges and up to 10 years in prison on federal charges. However, after escaping from a New York hospital in 1979, he made his way to Mexico. In 1983, he was convicted in Mexico for the killing of a police officer and sentenced to eight years in prison. Mexican authorities released Morales from prison after he had served five years, rejecting a long-pending U.S. extradition request on grounds that Morales was a "political fighter for the independence of Puerto Rico." The United States expressed its disagreement with this decision, stating that the U.S. government was "deeply disturbed that an individual with Morales' record of criminal behavior... [w]ould even be considered for possible political refugee status." Since 1988, the Government of Cuba has apparently provided safe harbor for Morales.

In addition, numerous members of the FALN were arrested in 1980 for their involvement in 28 bombings aimed at gaining independence for Puerto Rico. They were convicted in 1981 on thirteen counts that included seditious conspiracy, auto theft, illegal use of weapons, and plotting to kidnap. Three other FALN terrorists were arrested in 1983 for attempting to bomb U.S. military installations, for auto theft, and for attempted armed robbery. An additional two terrorists were arrested in 1986 on charges of robbery. Thus, in the case of the crimes perpetrated by the FALN, including the 1975 Fraunces Tavern bombing, the United States has pursued its policy of vigorously investigating and prosecuting those acts of terrorism which significantly

Impact on U.S. interests. In accord with this policy, the Federal Bureau of Investigation remains committed in its investigative efforts to apprehend William Morales. It is our hope that by aggressively pursuing and prosecuting terrorists, we will deter others who might contemplate committing such crimes.

We extend to you and your family our condolences on the loss of your father, Frank T. Connor, in 1975. We thank you for sharing your concerns with us and hope that this matter may one day be resolved.

Sincerely,



Ronnie L. Edelman
Principal Deputy Chief
Terrorism and Violent Crime Section