U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278
March 17, 1997

Mr. James E. Hall
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.
Washington, D.C.20594

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Enclosed please find one copy of a "Statement of ATF Certified Fire Investigator", I/N 63122 96 0060 Z, dated January 20, 1997. This report was provided to me on March 13, 1997 by the ATF Special Agent in Charge in New York.

The publication of this unsolicited and premature report by the ATF violates the agreement made by them regarding their participation in this investigation. I believe it is unfortunate that ATF, for reasons that are unknown to me, chose to prepare a report expressing an opinion regarding the cause of this tragedy before the investigation has been completed. It is an extraordinary violation of investigative protocol.

I have provided the original and a copy to FBIHQ and requested that the FBI Laboratory review the information in the report and contact ATF to obtain all information they relied upon to produce this document. I have also asked Director Freeh to express the FBI's displeasure regarding this incident to the highest levels of the ATF.

Sincerely,

James K. Kallstrom
Assistant Director in Charge

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