



*U.S. Department of Justice*

*Federal Bureau of Prisons*

*United States Penitentiary, Florence*

*Warden's Office  
P.O. Box 7500  
Florence, CO 81226-7500*

November 20, 2001

Mary Mapes  
Producer, CBS News  
6309 O'Connor Road  
Suite 125  
Irving, Texas 75039

**RE: Peter Langan  
Register Number 64023-061**

Dear Ms. Mapes:

Recently, an investigation determined that the above named inmate requested your assistance in circumventing Federal Bureau of Prisons mail procedures. Specifically, inmate Langan requested your cooperation in mailing information intended for another inmate. This would involve inmate Langan mailing a letter to the legal department of CBS News using special mail privileges. He then requested that you intercept the letter and mail it to another inmate as special mail. The inmate told you that this would keep "a lot of people out of the loop." Phone monitoring reveals that you agreed to this request and further provided the name of John Sternberg as the inmate's mail contact in your legal department. This investigation was based, in part, on inmate Langan's admission to this attempt.

Inmates incarcerated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons are allowed to place calls to family, friends and other authorized outside contacts. These calls are monitored by staff to preserve the security and orderly management of the institution and to protect the public. Inmates are permitted certain special mail privileges with members of the media, meaning that these (outgoing) letters are sealed by the inmate without being read by staff.

By agreeing to assist this inmate in circumventing federal regulations governing correspondence between confined inmates, you attempted to violate those federal regulations. Such regulations provide a mechanism whereby inmates may correspond with each other provided certain criteria are met. The rationale for these restrictions is fairly obvious. If inmates are permitted to send unmonitored messages between prisons, they could pass information that poses a threat to the security and good order of the various facilities and could have facilitated possible criminal activity. Given the unique security