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September 11, 1996

Mr. Louis Pichini
Chief, Criminal Division
United States Attorney's Office
615 Chestnut Street, Suite 1250
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Noninvestigation of allegations of corrupt DEA agents

Dear Mr. Pichini:

A pro bono client of mine, Guy Digirolamo, was convicted some time ago on a federal drug conspiracy case in the Eastern District of New York, based upon the testimony of some DEA agents working in the Brooklyn, Queens area of New York. They claimed to have imported 20 kilos of heroin from Pakistan, with the full approval of the Pakistan and United States Governments, because the heroin was acquired in an undercover purchase and was needed for evidence. They then offered to sell heroin to various individuals, including my client, and then arrested the various persons to whom the offers were made (my client, they admitted, had rejected the offer, but they included him anyway). The heroin allegedly was "disposed of" before the case even came to trial. These and other circumstances, too detailed and complex to mention, suggests that the agents may have used their official capacities as a cover for importing and reselling heroin for their own corrupt profit.

I encountered a prisoner in Lewisburg, Louis Perez, who is doing a life term for drugs and who gave me an affidavit stating that he and his co-conspirator bought huge quantities of drugs from two men in Queens whom he believes were the very same DEA agents who set up and testified against my client. Indeed, he states that he was requested by them to find somebody to bring in a large quantity of heroin from Pakistan. I did not show him photos of the suspect agents for two reasons: (1) I have none, and (2), if the heroin sources were in fact DEA agents, his identification of them would have much more credibility if obtained by the Government rather than by me.

I brought this information to the attention of Linda Dale Hoffa, an assistant in your office, in February, 1996, more than six months ago (see enclosed). I took it to her because she had prosecuted, in Philadelphia, Mr. Perez and his confederates who had sold their heroin in

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Philadelphia after acquiring it in Queens and elsewhere. She expressed no real interest in the matter, suggesting that Mr. Perez is a liar. I acknowledged that such could very well be the case, but then aren't most drug dealers liars, including those you use to convict others? At least the information ought to be checked out, I suggested, since the possibility that DEA agents were actually selling heroin and prosecuting people as part of their coverup is a very serious matter indeed, even in an era of widespread police corruption.

Mr. Perez reports that no one has contacted him. I frankly find that disgusting. I regard it as a gross dereliction of duty and if nothing is done about it by your office, I will bring it to the attention of the Office of Professional Responsibility.

I have been advised by lawyers who are familiar with your work that you can be counted on to see that a proper investigation is conducted. I trust that your excellent reputation is fully deserved and that you will do so.

Sincerely,

Steven Duke

SD/jzt
enclosure