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NATIONAL OFFICE:

11 15th St. NE #6
 Washington, DC 20002
 Phone: 202-543-8399

CITIZENS UNITED FOR REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

"A National Effort to Reduce Crime Through Criminal Justice Reform"

March 14, 1991

United States Sentencing Commission
 1331 Pennsylvania NW Ste. 1400
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Attn. Paul Martin

Dear Commissioners:

The Federal Correctional System Division of CURE includes as its members inmates, related families, and members of the public with an interest in the federal prison system. Please consider this our organization's comments in connection with current revisions to the sentencing guidelines.

We first wish to commend the concept of the guidelines because of their intent to bring uniformity to sentences which had too often been a matter of whim and caprice of individual judges.

The length of sentences is of major concern to us. Lengthy sentences are expensive to society for the direct cost of incarceration and the indirect cost of the removal of a potentially productive person from the economy. Lengthy sentences are expensive in the social cost of family destruction and damage to offspring of inmates. The Commission should direct its attention to these costs when determining the length of sentences.

First time offenders should get sentences which are substantially less than repeat offenders. Society should show compassion on a first mistake but not a second or third.

Sentences should be materially reduced for inmates over age 60. The chance of repeated crime by people in this age group is small. Health problems are magnified. This group can be handled through alternative punishment.

The practice of keeping a terminally ill inmate confined without access to his or her family seems especially cruel. Some means of release upon determination of a terminal health condition should be instituted.

Founded in '72 in San Antonio, Texas; expanded statewide in '75 and nationally in '85

U.S. Sentencing Commission

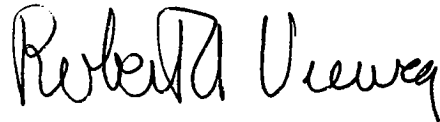
March 14, 1991 Page Two

Keeping foreign national incarcerated instead of deporting them seems a needless expense to the taxpayer which should be eliminated.

Our request is that you consider these concerns in your deliberations and that you keep us advised with sentencing developments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Vieweg". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Robert A. Vieweg
Member Executive Committee
Federal Correctional System
Division of CURE

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION
1331 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
SUITE 1400
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004
(202) 626-8500
FAX (202) 662-7631

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March 25, 1991

Mr. Robert A. Vieweg
CURE
11 15th Street, NE #6
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Vieweg:

Thank you for your thoughtful comments on the sentencing guidelines. The Commission appreciates the input you have provided us on these issues.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Courlander".

Michael Courlander
Public Information Specialist