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NEWSWEEK Magazine  
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To the Editors:

NEWSWEEK's depiction of Ambassador John Negroponte in your November 8 "A Secret War for Nicaragua" renders a loyal and extraordinarily competent public servant totally unrecognizable to those who have known him over the years.

Moreover, your article raises a policy issue which goes well beyond the question of accuracy. When a career public servant is concededly carrying out administration policy is it reasonable or fair to dramatize the attack upon the policy by focussing upon the man carrying it out?

The occasional media tendency to hunt out an individual for the role of "devil" can hardly be said to promote constructive public discussion of policy issues. Furthermore, each such incident must diminish the attractions of public service to dedicated and capable career diplomats who, like John Negroponte, serve successive administrations loyally without regard to their political complexion.

NEWSWEEK owes John Negroponte and his colleagues of the Foreign Service an apology. NEWSWEEK owes its readers a serious reappraisal of the policies which lead to the publication of such an article.

Very truly yours,

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
 Release  Excise  Deny  Declassify  
Date 6/2/98 Exemption \_\_\_\_\_

Peter R. Rosenblatt