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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

October 30, 1981

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Rey Yang

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The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We have carefully reviewed the proposed Executive Order on Intelligence and while some members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence would prefer a greater relaxation of restrictions, others do not. Nevertheless, we believe the current proposal represents a reasonable compromise, and as such express our support for it.

We are pleased to see that the traditional division of responsibility has been retained. That is, the FBI has the main responsibility for intelligence activities within the United States, while CIA has the responsibility for intelligence activities outside the United States. We are confident that in the execution of this Executive Order, the intelligence agencies and the Executive Department under President Reagan will have in mind the basic constitutional rights of United States persons. Inherent in this is a fundamental responsibility regarding our national security interest and, of course, a recognized acknowledgment of "accountability" for the faithful, lawful and constitutional exercise of executive authority.

We are concerned with the misleading stories in the press regarding CIA "domestic spying." These stories were based on a leaked copy of the draft Executive Order. We have been convinced by both the Executive Order itself and the discussions that we have had with executive branch officials that the newspaper stories were deliberately misleading. In protecting our national security interest consistent with the Executive Order it may be that certain modifications of existing statutes will be required, particularly, the limits imposed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. If you perceive such a need, we would appreciate your communicating with us in order that appropriate legislative measures may be introduced.

Sincerely,

J. Kenneth Robinson
J. Kenneth Robinson
Member of Congress

John M. Ashbrook
John M. Ashbrook
Member of Congress

Robert McClory
Robert McClory
Member of Congress

G. William Whitehurst
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