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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

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21 May 1985

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[Redacted]

Chief, Legislative Division
Office of Legislative Liaison
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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Dear [Redacted]

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This responds to your request for comments on the deletion of the proposed Drug and Alcohol Abuse Provisions from the Draft Intelligence Authorization Act for FY86. The potential problem that this deletion creates at NSA arises out of the requirements for NSA employment contained in Public Law 88-290 (50 U.S.C. §§ 831-833). This statute mandates that persons employed at, assigned to or detailed to NSA be cleared for access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI). As you know, both drug abuse and alcohol abuse may disqualify an individual from such access under the guidelines for SCI access promulgated by the DCI.

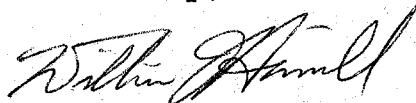
The NSA drug policy is a policy of strict prohibition based upon those adjudication guidelines. Thus, the improper use of drugs by persons currently cleared for SCI access at NSA is grounds for suspension of access and referral for termination of employment. Such drug abuse is viewed not only as a violation of law but also as an act that reflects adversely upon a person's capability to exercise the care, discretion and judgment required to protect SCI information. The proposed provision (§ 404) is needed to preserve the ability of NSA, consistent with P.L. 88-290, to take adverse action when drug abuse is discovered among SCI-cleared personnel.

The NSA alcohol abuse policy is more flexible because the SCI adjudication guidelines allow for a greater exercise of discretion in this area. Thus, NSA does have a voluntary alcohol rehabilitation program that offers assistance to individuals whose alcohol-related problems are not serious enough to warrant suspension of SCI access. The program consists of individual and group counseling sessions for persons who acknowledge their alcohol abuse problems. The NSA policy also includes educating and training managers and supervisors on alcohol abuse to aid them in identifying potential problems and making appropriate referrals and educating the

general NSA population (and their families when feasible) concerning alcohol abuse programs and effective measures to deal with problems associated with alcohol abuse.

Notwithstanding this policy, NSA must retain the discretion to consider the facts and circumstances surrounding a person's pattern of alcohol abuse to determine whether suspension of SCI access and termination of employment are appropriate. Thus we support your efforts to add Section 404 to the FY86 Intelligence Authorization Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Hamill".

WILLIAM J. HAMILL
Assistant General Counsel
Administration