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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6415

August 24, 1999

The Honorable George Tenet Director of Central Intelligence Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Tenet:

We very much appreciate your interest in taking action against unauthorized disclosures of classified information and invite you or your representatives to participate in two committee hearings on this subject. Our first hearing, which will focus on the present process for investigating and prosecuting leaks, will be held on Wednesday, September 22nd, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Room H-405 of the Capitol and will be closed.

For this first hearing, we ask that you or your designee describe the damage to national security caused by recent leaks, and then describe the referral and investigative process at CIA for such leaks. We plan to invite the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to describe their parts in that process as well. Our purpose in this first hearing is to understand the present process for responding to unauthorized disclosures and why it has not led to identifying those thought to be responsible for such disclosures and their prosecution.

At a second hearing, which we plan to hold early next year, our committee would like to examine specific measures that could be taken to address the problems raised in our first hearing. Such measures could include the installation of new technology and procedures for tagging and auditing classified information; the wider use of specific-point polygraphs and other tools in the investigation of specific leaks; and the possibility of other civil and criminal remedies for these leaks. Our purpose in this second hearing is to provide a basis for appropriate action against leaks in the budget and legislative package for fiscal year 2001.

We ask that written statements for the hearing on September 22nd be received no less than two days before the date of the hearing, or September 20th. Oral statements should last no longer than 30 minutes in total. Speaking time may be allocated among the witnesses as the lead witness sees fit, so long as the Committee is notified in advance as to the order of testimony.

Any questions regarding this request may be directed to Tom Newcomb or Christine Healey, at (202) 225-4121.

Sincerely,

Porter J. Goss Chairman

Julian C. Dixon

Ranking Democrat

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