SUBJECT: Letter to Vice Chairman Shelby on Unauthorized Disclosures

DCI/OCA OCA 2001-2226 (FN: Leglib (b)(3) 'Shelby UD Responseii.doc) (b)(3) Distribution: Original - Vice Chairman Shelby 1 - OCA Registry 1 - D/OCA 1 - GC 1 - DAC 1 - EXO/OCA 1 - (b)(3) Chron

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Office of Management and Budget

I.egislative Reference Division 7218 New Executive Office Building 725 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20503-0001

Date: 02 August 2001

FROM:	Michael Garcia
PHONE:	(202) 395-7896
FAX:	(202) 395-5691
E-MAIL:	Michael_Garcia@omb.eop.gov

То	FAX #

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COMMENTS:

Attached is the cleared version of the CIA's response letter to Sen. Shelby on "leaks." This has been reviewed and modified by OMB and NSC.

Thanks.

Page 1 of 2

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475

July 9, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Director:

Last year President Clinton – over the objection of the Attorney General, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Director of the FBI – vetoed the Intelligence Authorization bill because it included a provision that would criminalize the 'leaking' of classified information.

There remains a consensus within the Intelligence Community and the national security committees of Congress that leaks of classified information are out of control. Just in the months since the Bush Administration took office we have seen numerous examples of leaks throughout the government, particularly in the Hanssen investigation. At present, there is no statutory proscription for disclosing, without authorization, nondefense classified information. The time has come to fill this void.

Last year's 'leaks' provision was drafted with the cooperation and support of the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Director of the FBI, and the Director of Central Intelligence. In fact, the Clinton Administration supported the provision in their own Statement of Administration Policy. Only under intense pressure from the press in the midst of a very competitive presidential race did the Clinton Administration waver in its support for the provision late last year.

This provision has been in discussion since the Reagan Administration studied the issue in 1985 and recommended enactment of legislation. It is a provision that is long overdue. With your support, we will work with the Administration to ensure we can enact a tough but fair leaks provision in this year's Intelligence Authorization Act.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Shelby Vice Chairman

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THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

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July 19, 2001

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby Ranking Republican Select Committee on Intelligence United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

Thank you for your letter of July 9th regarding legislation to establish criminal penalties for unauthorized disclosure of classified information. Regrettably, in our careers in public service, you and I have seen situations in which people with authorized access to classified information have broken faith and disclosed secrets that have injured our defense, diplomatic and intelligence capabilities and activities. The American people have a right to expect their Government to protect the national security secrets upon which the protection and advancement of American interests depends.

I understand that Congress is likely to consider legislation to establish criminal penalties for unauthorized disclosures of classified information in conjection with consideration of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002. The Attorney General has the lead for the Administration on legislation defining crimes, such as the unauthorized disclosures legislation. The Secretaries of State, Defense, and Energy, the Director of Central Intelligence, and other officials whose organizations depend for their effectiveness upon protection of classified information, are available to assist the Attorney General in this matter.

I have asked the Attorney General to contact you regarding legislation on unauthorized disclosures of classified information. Thank you for your continuing leadership on intelligence issues.

Sincerely.

cc: The Honorable John Ashcroft Aπomey General of the United States Washington, D.C. 20530

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0475

July 9, 2001

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney Vice President of the United States Old Executive Office Building Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

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This provision has been in discussion since the Reagan Administration studied the issue in 1985 and recommended enactment of legislation. It is a provision that is long overdue. With your support, we will work with the Administration to ensure we can enact a tough but fair leaks provision in this year's Intelligence Authorization Act.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Shelby Vice Chairman