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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

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MICHAEL MEERMANS
MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

DAVID BUCKLEY
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 18, 2006

Chairman Pete Hoekstra
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Pete:

I am appalled that you have suspended access to classified information of a Committee professional staff member in response to concerns by one of your members regarding a press leak of the April 2006 NIE on global terrorism. Your action, purportedly based on a letter not furnished to me, is without basis and I demand that you immediately reinstate the staffer's access to classified information.

Your course of action and your unilateral investigation "into the possibility of activity that violates House and Committee Rules and relevant criminal laws" is outrageous on several fronts.

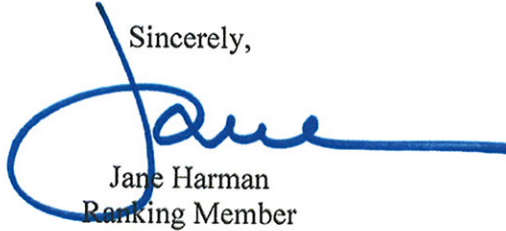
First, there is no evidence to support your judgment that the staffer gave information gleaned from the NIE to unauthorized persons. The NIE was provided to multiple Congressional committees in May 2006. The document was posted on the internal HPSCI computer system the Thursday before the press stories appeared. The staffer obtained a copy of the document and provided it to a Member of the Committee as requested. If you have any information that anything more was done, please provide it to me immediately.

Second, your unilateral commencement of an investigation violates Committee Rules. I demand, in accordance with those rules, that you consult with me on the purpose and scope of any such inquiry.

Third, this is clearly a selective response to leaked information. Sadly, every day there are media reports pertaining to classified information. Many times these reports pertain to information to which our committee – along with thousands of intelligence professionals and policy makers – have access. We certainly have not conducted investigations of each of those disclosures which have no more apparent connection to the Committee than does this one.

Fourth, you admit that your action against this staffer is in retaliation for my decision to release an unclassified summary of the Special Counsel's report into the Cunningham matter. If you have a problem with me, why not deal with me directly?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Harman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jane Harman
Ranking Member