

UNCLASSIFIED WITH  
CONFIDENTIAL  
ATTACHMENT

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

May 27, 2010

Dear Representative Eshoo:

Thank you for the opportunity to follow up with you regarding your interest, and those of your colleagues, to include the Government Accounting Office (GAO) provision in the FY10 Intelligence Authorization Bill. I want to assure you that appropriate consideration was given to this measure. However, as previously conveyed in the Statement of Administration Policy (SAP), this provision would fundamentally alter the framework for the oversight of the Intelligence Community and therefore cannot be supported.

As we discussed, there is a process in place that does allow for other committees, utilizing the services and capabilities of the GAO, to interact with the Intelligence Community in support of committee requirements. Please find attached a list of GAO taskings to the Intelligence Community (IC) for 2009 and to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for 2010. As you can see, there is a broad range of issues and topics covered by these requests from committees other than the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) or Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI). This list shows the responsiveness of the IC to the GAO, and is indicative of the willingness of the administration to work closely with Congress in all of its oversight roles.

However, as we also discussed, there are four areas where we look to the intelligence committees to exercise exclusive jurisdiction: (1) the evaluation, review, and audit of intelligence activities, capabilities, programs, and operations; (2) activities involving intelligence sources; (3) activities involving intelligence methods; and (4) the analysis of intelligence funding. We have decades of close cooperation with the HPSCI and SSCI in these areas, and strongly support maintaining this long-standing agreement for the conduct of congressional oversight of intelligence.

Given the wide consensus from leaders throughout the IC, the Vice President, the President, and even many in Congress, who

UNCLASSIFIED WITH  
CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

firmly oppose the proposed GAO provision, inclusion of this language in the bill will elicit a veto.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss important matters of national security with you and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "J" at the beginning.

General James L. Jones, USMC, Ret.  
National Security Advisor

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0514

Cc:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Silvestre Reyes  
The Honorable Ike Skelton  
The Honorable Buck P. McKeon