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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

1 DEC 1978

Legislative Counsel

OLC 78-249/F

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EP — ERDA

Ms. Patricia M. Wald
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Pat:

Enclosed are copies of an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence confirming the requirement for prior Committee approval before matters involved in a confidential exchange with the Committees and their predecessors are publicly released.

These letters were prompted by the concerns that confidential Congressional matters reposing in Agency files may be subject to release under the FOIA/PA laws, despite the fact that these laws do not cover the Congress. We have extended the requirement for prior Congressional approval to cover confidential exchanges by the Agency with all Committees and Members of Congress.

I am bringing this to your attention since you may not have received similar letters from the SSCI and HPSCI and you may wish to implement a similar policy. The need for resolving this problem in order to protect the legitimate interests of the Congress, also focuses Congressional attention on the kinds of problems we in the Community face in trying to protect confidential information subject to release and may generate support for our requests for remedial legislative relief.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Frederick P. Hitz

Enclosures

Distribution:

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