Approved For Release 2006/11/30 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000800050116-1

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

Proposed Ltr

16 JAN 1978

Honorable Charles E. Bennett
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I wish to thank you for your letter of 30 December 1977 in which you expressed interest in my article, "The CIA's Unequivocal Right to Prior Review" which appeared in the Washington Post. You also mentioned that you are interested in my suggestions and comments on your bill, H.R. 89, which would amend the National Security Act of 1947 by establishing procedures and standards for the classification and declassification of sensitive official information and material, another matter which is of concern to us both.

In July 1977, I sent a letter to Chairman Price, in response to a request for the Agency's comments on H.R. 89. In that letter, I pointed out that there was an Executive Branch review underway of the classification system and in particular of E.O. 11652, "Classification and Declassification of National Security Information and Material." This review is now in its final stages and is awaiting Presidential approval. Until that occurs, I do not believe it would be appropriate for me to comment substantively on this matter. I can, however, assure you of my continuing interest in ensuring that information relating to the national security and foreign relations of the United States is appropriately--not overly--classified and protected.

As I pointed out in my article, recent events illustrate how difficult it is becoming these days to maintain a minimal level of secrecy essential to the effective operation of our intelligence apparatus. I am confident we share the recognition that some secrecy is necessary in today's society; the key questions are determining how much secrecy is necessary and what will remain secret. I look forward to cooperating with you in developing workable answers to these critical questions.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

Distribution:
Orig - Addressee
1 - DCI
1 - A/DDCI
1 - ER
1 - Asst. for Public Affairs
1 - OGC
1 - OLC Subject
1 - OLC Chrono

OLC:YTF:sm (12 Jan 78)

MORI/CDF

Approved For Release 2006/11/30 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000800050116-1