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Central Intelligence Agency

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15 MAY 1978

Honorable Edward P. Boland, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 26 April 1978 concerning your Committee's desire to make an in-depth review of the human intelligence collection functions contained in the National Foreign Intelligence Program. I am pleased to have this advance notice of your intentions to study this subject, and I will take every possible step to assist your Committee in this endeavor. HUMINT activities are perhaps the most difficult of all intelligence collection activities to evaluate and to measure in a cost effectiveness sense. Nevertheless, they are, in my opinion, a major and vitally important contributor to the national security. I welcome any efforts to make these activities more understandable to your Committee.

I understand that our staffs are consulting on how best to review already completed studies which deal with the areas of concern expressed in your letter. This will help to pinpoint any additional areas that may need to be studied. I want to commend your efforts to review existing information before requiring any new Community efforts. It is of great importance to me and my colleagues that your Committee receive every assistance with the least possible disruption of current HUMINT activities.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

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