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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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May 8, 1984

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO 84-1692

The Honorable Edward P. Boland
Chairman
The Honorable J. Kenneth Robinson
Ranking Minority Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ed and Ken:

Thank you for your letter of April 13, 1984, regarding H.R. 5164, the House legislation providing FOIA relief to the CIA. It is our understanding that this legislation as reported by your Committee, and the report accompanying it, have the support of the Department of Justice and the Central Intelligence Agency, as well as interested outside organizations. This being the case, we certainly would be prepared to cooperate in enacting the legislation without a conference if your bill is passed by the House of Representatives in essentially the form reported by your Committee. Furthermore, it would be our hope that your version of the legislation could be passed in an expeditious manner, as time is running out in this session of the 98th Congress. Senators Thurmond and Biden are in accord with these views.

As you know, we have long been concerned about some of the effects of FOIA on the Intelligence Community, and we have worked hard to bring relief from some of these effects to the Community. Such relief should enable these Agencies to devote more attention to their primary mission of developing accurate and timely intelligence, while assuring continued access by the public, subject to the exemptions of the Act, to information in non-operational files. We will continue to work toward this goal and hope that speedy action by the House of Representatives on your legislation will make this common goal easier for all of us to achieve.

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Once again, thank you for your letter and for your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Barry Goldwater
Chairman

Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Vice Chairman

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