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September 17, 1979

WFAC 4951-79

Honorable Stansfield Turner  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

It has been a year since the Subcommittee on Evaluation held hearings on warning and heard a "bare bones" description of how a "focal point for warning" was to be created. Significant progress has been observed in some areas - notably the periodic warning meetings conducted by NIOs - but we are disturbed that other aspects of the warning system have yet to be fleshed out.

The Strategic Warning Staff has remained in limbo too long. It needs to have its personnel recruitment revitalized and its mission defined. While we are optimistic that - under the new NFAC Director, the able new head of the SWS and the NIO/W - a role can be devised in which the SWS will interact effectively with the rest of the community to promote warning, I do urge your attention to this important area to ensure that these efforts proceed without delay and meet with the necessary support from the rest of the community.

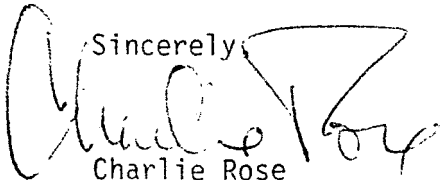
We also note with some concern the departure of [redacted] and other personnel in DoD who have led recent efforts to improve the management of the DoD Indications and Warning System. We urge you to ensure that progress achieved in the last year or two not be eroded during this period of change.

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Finally, I remind you of our continued interest in measures to provide for evaluation of intelligence community performance in providing warning, and in mechanisms to ensure systematic consideration of whether given expenditures are required for I&W. (The Committee has requested a report on these subjects by December 31, 1978.)

In May I addressed a meeting of the I&W Seminar, noting that Mr. Dick Lehman had called our Committee "the Godfather" of the NIO for Warning. I said that we accepted that role, and as a good godparent the Committee has been following closely the development of that office. It is in the same spirit that I bring these concerns to your attention.

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Sincerely,  
  
Charlie Rose  
Chairman, Subcommittee  
on Evaluation

[Redacted box]