

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1983

Dear Barry:

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 1983, expressing concern about some of the effects of the Freedom of Information Act on the Intelligence Community.

I share your concern about these effects and thus fully support appropriate legislative relief from the Act for the agencies of the Intelligence Community. Such relief should be tailored to 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 existing exemptions of the Act, to information in non-operational files. I understand you are currently considering a proposal that is designed to strike this important balance for the Central Intelligence Agency and may be expanded to include other elements of the Intelligence Community.

I look forward to early introduction of your proposal and to working with you and your colleagues toward achievement of this important goal.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Barry Goldwater
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510