

Attachment 1

January 12, 2008

See addressees below.

We are bringing a serious situation to your attention and are asking you to take prompt action to fix it and prevent further harm.

The Inspector General for the Department of State is resigning on January 15. The word in the Department and the Office of Inspector General is that Deputy Secretary of State, John Negroponte, and Undersecretary for Management, Patrick Kennedy, are selecting the acting IG. It is said to be Ambassador Harry Geisel or someone they are comfortable with.

Let's think about this. The purpose of the IG legislation is to allow the President to select and the Senate to confirm a qualified person to independently and objectively review the programs and operations of the Department and report to both the Secretary of State and the Congress.

Having the Deputy Secretary of State and the Undersecretary for Management select an acting Inspector General who works for or retired from the Department shows total disrespect for the American people and the employees of the Department and the OIG. It is like having a person indicted for a crime select and confirm his own judge and jury. It gets worse. We understand that Ambassador Geisel, a long-time Department employee and one time Acting IG, had been the subject of an IG investigation.

This is not to criticize Mr. Negroponte or Mr. Kennedy or cast doubt on their integrity or professionalism. It is to say neither they nor the Secretary should be selecting the Acting IG or the replacement permanent IG. That is clearly the job of the President, with advice from the other IGs, and confirmation from the Senate.

Where are the President and the other Inspector Generals when we and the American public need them to restore the integrity and professionalism to the OIG? Where are the Senators and Congressmen? Is anybody out there still alive and breathing?

Before the current IG was appointed, there were four Acting IGs in two years. All of them were long time Department employees with the rank of Ambassador. Qualified? Independent? Objective? Just look at the record. It was a disaster and it's about to be repeated unless you take action to fix it.

Please help us. We and the American people are suffering.

Very concerned employees.

Senator Claire McCaskill
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tom Coburn
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Henry Waxman
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Tom Davis
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Phil Schilliro
Chief of Staff
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. David Marin
Staff Director
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom Lantos
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

continued

Inspector General Greg Friedman
Vice Chair of the PCIE
Office of Inspector General
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Ms Danielle Brian
Executive Director
Project on Government Oversight
666 Eleventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Al Kamen
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20071

Mr. Glenn Kessler
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20071

Ms Karen DeYoung
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20071

New York Times
620 8th Ave.
New York, NY 10018

Mr. Brian Ross
ABC News – 20/20
77 West 66th Street
New York, NY 10023

Mr. Morley Safer
CBS News - 60 Minutes
555 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019