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.
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