

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301



Administration
& Management

18 SEP 1991

Honorable Stephen J. Solarz
Chairman, Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter of August 2, 1991 to Secretary Cheney expressed concern that the Defense Department may not be doing all it should do to equitably resolve the case of Mr. Richard M. Barlow, an employee in the Directorate for Personnel and Security, Washington Headquarters Services (WHS). You also urged that we consult with the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoDIG) to corroborate this.

As suggested in your letter, I have taken the opportunity to consult with the DoDIG. As you may be aware, that organization has been involved in two investigations regarding Mr. Barlow. The first investigation deals with the personnel actions taken relative to Mr. Barlow, and has been completed. The second concerns allegations made by Mr. Barlow regarding his former employing organization (the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy) and, as I understand, is still on-going. I have enclosed a synopsis of the DoDIG's report of investigation regarding the personnel actions relative to Mr. Barlow. The findings of this investigation were that neither applicable laws or regulations were violated by actions taken concerning Mr. Barlow nor were his rights under the Privacy or Freedom of Information Acts violated. Moreover, the DoDIG memorandum's summary conclusion was that "while the WHS actions to accommodate Mr. Barlow were well intentioned, we believe they were extraordinary and went beyond what was necessary." I have carefully reviewed Mr. Kniaz's letter of May 28, 1991, and have concluded that his response was accurate, forthright and to the point.

Mr. Barlow's reassignment to an Employee Development Specialist within the Directorate for Personnel and Security was effective Sunday, August 11, 1991. In the event the second investigation provides a basis for consideration of other appropriate personnel actions, they will be pursued.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated, and an identical letter has been forwarded to Congressman Mavroules and Congressman Sikorski.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. O. Cooke".

D. O. Cooke
Director

Enclosure
As stated