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Mr. Donald A. Deline  
General Counsel  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Russell SOB - Room 228  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Deline:

Having served as an inspector general for nearly 14 years, first in Commerce and then in State, I have come across many examples of employees who received shoddy and inequitable treatment by their agencies. But the case of Richard Barlow is *sui generis*. I understand that you are generally familiar with his situation, so that I need not repeat any of the background here.


What particularly concerns me about the way in which the Defense Department handled the Barlow matter is that it has resulted in an extraordinary abuse of the security clearance process. Intelligence analysts, who depend upon code word clearances for their access to sensitive information, are especially vulnerable in this area. They belong to a tight little fraternity in which even a hint of their being a "problem" is enough to trip a warning flag, for their colleagues to view them with suspicion, for clearances to be delayed, modified, or even suspended.

This, in itself, is by no means improper. Applicants for code word clearances should be held to a very high standard. In Barlow's case, however, exhaustive DOD investigations found no cause for denying him a full security clearance. Indeed, I was assured by DOD, orally and in writing, that he did not have a security problem. Nevertheless, despite these assurances, Barlow has been unable ever since he left Defense to obtain requisite clearances. To the best of my knowledge, the only basis for these difficulties is that he achieved some prominence -- *for reasons created by DOD, not by him* -- as a potential but always unstated "problem."

I find such a Kafka-like situation not only grotesque, but grievously unfair. It is unfair most of all to Barlow, but also to the U.S. intelligence community, which is thus deprived of the full services of someone who unquestionably is a brilliant analyst and extremely knowledgeable in the critical field of dual-use export controls.

Please do not hesitate to call on me (301/986-9046) if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Sherman M. Funk