

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON**

February 10, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairwoman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Feinstein and Levin:

I write in response to your letter to the President, dated January 6, 2014, regarding declassification of information describing the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) former rendition, detention and interrogation (RDI) program.


As you know, one of the President's first acts in office was to sign an Executive Order which brought an end to the RDI program. The President believes that the program was inconsistent with our values as a Nation, and he has worked to ensure that this type of program will never be repeated. As just one example, in the President's first 100 days in office, the Administration took the extraordinary step of declassifying and releasing four Office of Legal Counsel memoranda, which provided significant details regarding the program.

The President shares your commitment to facilitating the prosecution of those charged in connection with the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the Administration will continue to take all appropriate steps to help support these military commission proceedings, including through declassification of information relating to the RDI program. In addition, the President is committed to making public some version of the Intelligence Committee's important review of that historical program, as he believes that public scrutiny and debate will help to inform the public understanding of the program and to ensure that such a program will not be contemplated by a future administration. As I know you appreciate, however, declassification decisions, even with respect to historical legacy programs, are fact-based and must be made with the utmost sensitivity to our national security.

The President and Director Brennan are committed to working with you and others on your respective Committees to ensure that information regarding the RDI program is declassified, consistent with our national security interests. In support of these goals, I

understand that Director Brennan will be in contact with you and Vice Chairman Chambliss soon to discuss steps that Director Brennan is taking to declassify certain information relating to the former program in support of the current military commission proceedings, as well as information relating to the Intelligence Committee's review of the detention and interrogation program.

Sincerely,



Kathryn H. Ruemmler  
Counsel to the President

cc: The Honorable Saxby Chambliss  
Vice-Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Attorney General  
The Honorable Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense  
The Honorable James R. Clapper, Director of National Intelligence  
The Honorable John O. Brennan, Director, Central Intelligence Agency