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March 31, 2004

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The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

I have heard reports that during the time that Richard Clarke, the former National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism, was testifying before the September 11 Commission on March 24, you placed telephone calls to selected Commission members.

Since the conduct of the White House is one of the key issues being investigated by the Commission, it would be unusual if such ex parte contacts occurred.

I would appreciate it if you could respond to the following questions:

1. Are the reports that you placed telephone calls to Commission members during Mr. Clarke's appearance accurate?
2. If the reports are accurate, which Commission members did you speak with?
3. If the reports are accurate, what was the substance of the communications between you and the Commission members?

Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member