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Chairman Reyes Statement on Committee Investigation

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 17) – *Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Silvestre Reyes of Texas today issued the following statement regarding a Committee investigation into possible Executive Branch violations of federal law, to include the National Security Act of 1947:*

“After careful consideration and consultation with the Ranking Minority Member and other members of the Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will conduct an investigation into possible violations of federal law, including the *National Security Act of 1947*.

“This investigation will focus on the core issue of how the congressional intelligence committees and Congress are kept fully and currently informed. To this end, the investigation will examine several issues, including the program discussed during Director Panetta’s June 24th notification and whether there was any past decision or direction to withhold information from the Committee.

“The Ranking Minority Member and I will be working to finalize a framework agreement on these issues, which would set out a common understanding of the purpose and scope of this effort, as well as ensure that the review of these issues will be conducted in a serious, thorough, and bipartisan manner. While there may be differences of opinion with respect to specific incidents, I believe we agree that the Committee must be kept fully and currently informed of significant intelligence activities as required by law.

“As I have said in the past, the Committee supports the efforts of the CIA workforce in its difficult mission to keep America safe. I intend to make this investigation fair and thorough, and it is my goal that it will not become a distraction to the men and women of the CIA. However, in order to assist them fully and keep them well-resourced, it is the responsibility of the executive branch to ensure that the Committee is kept informed of all significant anticipated intelligence activities.”