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## **Reyes Comments on Release of DOJ OLC Memoranda**

**WASHINGTON** (April 16) – *Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Silvestre Reyes of Texas today issued the following statement regarding the release of memoranda issued by the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) between 2002 and 2005:*

“As Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, I understand the unique and difficult challenge of balancing transparency and accountability with the necessities of U.S. national security. It is reassuring to me that the President has underscored the importance of carrying out intelligence operations and protecting sensitive information while staying true to the values and ideals of the United States.

“The OLC opinions released today are of significant historical value; the nation and the world want to know what it is that happened, and why. These opinions will go a long way to answering those questions.

“As the President said, this is a time for reflection, not retribution. I am pleased with his decision not to prosecute those men and women in the Intelligence Community who conducted interrogations. To penalize those on the frontlines might have had a chilling affect on the CIA’s ability to rely on any future legal advice from the Department of Justice. The ability to operate with clear guidelines and without hesitation is critical to the safety of CIA officers and the success of their missions.”