

LAMAR SMITH
21ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

JOHN W. LAMPMANN
CHIEF OF STAFF

2231 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4321
(202) 225-4236
FAX: (202) 225-8628

<http://lamarsmith.house.gov>



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

August 16 2004

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,
THE INTERNET AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND CLAIMS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY, SCIENCE
AND RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND
BORDER SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND
COUNTERTERRORISM

Honorable Colin Powell
Secretary of State
220 C. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Powell,

In a recent letter from Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs Paul V. Kelly to Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson, Mr. Kelly indicated that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will observe our federal elections this November.

We respectfully request that the Department of State answer several questions regarding the OSCE's involvement in our elections:

1. Since 1990, how many elections, and in which years, did the OSCE observe our elections?
2. If the OSCE did not monitor our presidential elections in 1992, 1996, and 2000, are election observers being sent to the United States in response to the contested presidential election in 2000?
3. In which states, cities, and other regions will the election observation mission be deployed? Who determines where the observers will be deployed?
4. What is the process for "observing" our elections? To what extent would that be different from "monitoring" an election?
5. Does the OSCE have any authority to influence the procedures under which our elections take place? Will it issue a report or make determinations as to whether elections in the United States are "full and fair?"
6. Can the OSCE unilaterally decide to either observe or monitor our elections? Did the Department of State make a request, formal or informal, for the OSCE to observe our elections this November?

PLEASE REPLY TO:

1100 N.E. LOOP 410
SUITE 640
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209
(210) 821-5024
FAX: (210) 821-5947

13333-A HIGHWAY 71 WEST
ROOM 100
AUSTIN, TX 78738
(512) 402-9743
FAX: (512) 402-9867

1006 JUNCTION HIGHWAY
KERRVILLE, TX 78028
(830) 895-1414
FAX: (830) 895-2091

7. Many OSCE members are emerging democracies, less than 15 years old. Would it be more appropriate for the OSCE to direct its resources to these newly sovereign states?
8. Did the Department of State plan to invite the OSCE to observe our elections prior to having received the letter from Congresswoman Johnson dated July 8, 2004?

Please respond to our questions within one week. We thank you in advance and look forward to your response to our questions about the OSCE.

Sincerely,

Pam Smith

Steve Chabot

David Vitter

Joe Wilson

John Carter

Rui B. Barb

Steve King

Tom Tarcus

Sarah Johnson

Glady Forbes