

President Urged to Ensure Cooperation with Leak Probe

Reps. Waxman and Conyers ask the President about reports that many White House officials are refusing to cooperate with the Justice Department's criminal investigation into the leak of the identity of a covert CIA operative.

February 10, 2004

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing about today's press reports that "most" White House officials are refusing to cooperate with the Justice Department's criminal investigation into the leak of the identity of a covert CIA operative.

As you know, Justice Department Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald is investigating the reports that many White House officials are refusing to cooperate with the Justice Department's criminal investigation into the leak of the identity of a covert CIA operative.

As part of its investigation, the Justice Department has sought the cooperation of White House officials. We are writing about today's press reports that "most" White House officials are refusing to cooperate with the Justice Department's criminal investigation into the leak of the identity of a covert CIA operative.

According to press accounts today, however, many White House employees are refusing to cooperate with the Justice Department's criminal investigation into the leak of the identity of a covert CIA operative.

These actions directly contradict your explicit direction to cooperate fully with the investigation.

We do not question the right of any individual to seek the advice of counsel and upon counsel's advice to decline to answer questions.

There is, however, no constitutional right to have access to classified information or to be entitled to a hearing before being removed from a position of trust.

We would like to know what steps you are taking to ensure that the White House officials are cooperating with the Justice Department's criminal investigation into the leak of the identity of a covert CIA operative.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform

John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary

1 Bush Aides Testify in Leak Probe, Washington Post (Feb. 10, 2004).

2 Id.

3 Top Bush Aide Is Questioned in CIA Leak, New York Times (Feb. 10, 2004).

4 White House Press Briefing, FDCH Political Transcripts (Jan. 5, 2004) (including t

Documents and Links

- [Letter to the President](#)