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NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 19, 1981

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Vice Admiral B. R. Inman
Director, National Security Agency
Chief, Central Security Service
Department of Defense
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

Dear Admiral Inman:

This is in response to your letter regarding your concern over the manner in which the issue of public cryptography is addressed in the committee's report on the government's classification of private ideas. I am concerned about the implied assertion that this committee purposely ignored national security interests in its review of the issue of public cryptography. While there are those who would disagree, I believe the issue of public cryptography should be addressed in a public forum.

It is important that an unclassified and comprehensive treatment of the complex issues surrounding this area be presented to the Congress and the public. As such, all of the material contained in the report was derived from open hearings and the public record. Your own testimony was important in furthering the understanding of the major issues involved in public cryptography. Finally, I would like to point out that I consider it improper to submit draft reports of the committee to agencies for review and comment. Agency officials have an opportunity to adequately present their views at the hearings.

For your information, I have concurred with Chairman Boland's recommendation that the Intelligence and Government Operations Committees work together on issues of mutual jurisdiction. However, both committees must continue to rely on agency officials keeping the committees informed and current on matters within their respective jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

JACK BROOKS
Chairman

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