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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

**APR 20 2020**

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff  
Chairman  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Schiff:

Thank you for your letter of April 7 with suggestions for reforming the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI).

I must begin by voicing my surprise that your four-page letter said nothing about the historic appointment of the first female Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). Instead, you expressed concerns regarding the retirement of the former male Director. You erroneously cast judgement on the reason of his departure while ignoring the accomplishments of NCTC's new leadership, two highly qualified female officers serving as the Acting Director and Acting Deputy Director. Diversity of the IC workforce should always be celebrated, and I am proud that we increased diversity within the ODNI's senior ranks, to include more women and members of the LGBT community.

I must disagree with your proposals to divest the DNI of managerial competence and personnel decision-making authority, and to replace your committee's mandate for Intelligence Community (IC) oversight with a mandate for IC administration. Career IC officials have conducted four studies in the last two years calling for reforms at the ODNI, and the career officials are eager to implement the recommendations. It is my duty to listen to these ODNI career employees who have ideas on how to improve the work we do for the American people. Going forward, I encourage you to think of the relationship between your committee and the IC as that between the legislative and executive branches of government, rather than that between a hedge fund and a distressed asset, as your letter suggests.

I must also speak on behalf of the career intelligence officers at ODNI, whom your letter accuses of politicizing the briefing to Members of Congress of March 10th. As the Acting DNI, I am compelled to defend these career officers from unsubstantiated indictments of their motivations and judgment. Many are offended by the accusations that they did not share unvarnished assessments. If you share with me the reports you believe provide evidence for these claims, I can promise you that I will review them with the seriousness such accusations demand.

I should also clarify the purpose of the UNCLASSIFIED leave-behind Fact Sheet intelligence officials prepared for the March 10th briefing. The impetus for this document came from some Members of Congress who requested publically-releasable information to use with

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constituents and the media. We must continue to provide the American public this information to enable them to decipher the information that appears in the media. The UNCLASSIFIED fact sheets also protect career intelligence briefers from any subsequent media reporting which might not otherwise do justice to the quality and integrity of their work.

Lastly, I strongly agree with your statement of a bipartisan legislative commitment to the IC. I would hope to see this commitment reflected on the signature line of your future letters.

Respectfully,



Richard A. Grenell  
Acting Director

Cc:

The Honorable Richard Burr  
The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
The Honorable Devin Nunes