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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAR 21 2003

Dear Senator Bingaman:

Thank you for your letter of February 11 to Under Secretary Dobriansky, regarding the Washington Post article of December 26, 2002, which made certain allegations of methods by which the United States obtains information from persons it has detained. Under Secretary Dobriansky has asked me to reply to you on her behalf.

The Department takes these allegations very seriously. As you note in your letter, any implication that the United States has "surrendered the moral high ground" could well harm our long-term national security interests, and more specifically, the War on Terror.

We are now looking into these allegations with the Department of Defense, and will provide you with a comprehensive response as soon as possible.

I hope that you find this information satisfactory as an interim reply. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Kelly  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 30 SEP 2004 200303827

Enclosure:  
Correspondence returned

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The Honorable  
Jeff Bingaman,  
United States Senate.

Interim reply

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