

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1992

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Committee on Banking, Finance
& Urban Affairs

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letters of May 4, 1992, to C. Boyden Gray, Counsel to the President, and Nicholas Rostow, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Legal Adviser to the National Security Council. As I stated to you in my letter of May 20 regarding two prior requests from you for testimony from White House officials, it is the long-standing practice of the Executive Branch to decline requests for testimony by members of the President's personal staff. For that reason, I must decline your request for personal testimony by Messrs. Gray and Rostow.

As I indicated to you in my May 20 letter, however, the Administration is prepared in view of the unusual circumstances presented here to work with you to develop an alternative, mutually acceptable mechanism for making available to Members of the Committee the White House officials whose testimony you have sought. We believe the Administration acted reasonably and properly during the period prior to the Persian Gulf conflict. We are anxious to ensure that the Committee has an accurate picture of Administration policy and actions.

Sincerely,



Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20515