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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

August 12, 1986

CH 7
#52

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Honorable Ronald D. Coleman
416 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ron:

As you are aware, there have been numerous stories published in the press during the last year alleging that members of the National Security Council violated the Boland amendment prohibiting certain assistance to the contra fighting the government of Nicaragua. As a result of these allegations, you introduced a resolution of inquiry to compel the National Security Council to provide certain information so the Congress could make a determination as to whether or not the Boland amendment was violated during the time it was in effect.

Because of the highly classified nature of the work of the National Security Council, the resolution of inquiry was referred to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Members of the Committee, including myself, went to the White House to examine the issues raised by the resolution with Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, a member of the National Security Council staff and one of the principal subjects of the resolution; the President's National Security Adviser; and other members of the NSC staff, including White House counsel. In addition, the Committee also examined other classified evidence concerning the resolution.

Based on our discussions and review of the evidence provided, it is my belief that the published press allegations cannot be proven.

The resolution of inquiry was the proper vehicle by which to bring these matters to the attention of the Congress and to this Committee, and we appreciate your efforts to remove doubts about United States activities.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Lee H. Hamilton

Lee H. Hamilton
Chairman

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