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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

May 19, 2004

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ROBERT S. RANGEL, STAFF DIRECTOR

LTG Ricardo Sanchez
Commander
Combined Joint Task Force 7
Baghdad, Iraq

Dear General Sanchez:

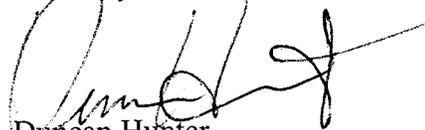
It is my understanding that you have offered to appear before the House Armed Services Committee this Friday, May 21, 2004.

General, your troops need you. The military justice system is moving swiftly and surely to address the transgressions which occurred at Abu Ghraib. In this regard, there is very little that your testimony can add to regarding the ongoing seven prosecutions.

By comparison, on the battlefield in Iraq, American forces face significant daily challenges, including force protection, operations, surveillance and the stand-up of Iraqi security forces, all of which need your direct and daily supervision.

Accordingly, I request that you cancel your appearance before the House Armed Services Committee. Please return to the troops as soon as possible – they need you there; we need you there.

Sincerely,



Duncan Hunter
Chairman

Cc: Honorable Donald Rumsfeld