Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

December 2, 2004

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft,

We write to request the release of the final classified monograph prepared by the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, commonly known as the 9/11 Commission. As you are aware, in addition to releasing a final report, the 9/11 Commission prepared a series of monographs. These monographs provide more in-depth information about critical aspects of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. To date, all but one of these monographs have been made publicly available.

This final, unreleased monograph reportedly contains information outlining the movement of the highjacked planes on 9/11 and the actions of the FAA and TSA in response. It is our understanding that this monograph was not submitted to the Justice Department until the day the 9/11 Commission expired, August 21, 2004. As you know, not only did the commission expire that day but the security clearances of the commission members and staff expired as well. We understand that this prevented your staff from discussing with committee members and staff how to properly edit the document for security concerns, and that these concerns could delay the release of the document, but they should not prohibit its release.

Because it has been several months since the submission of the monograph to the Justice Department, there have been a number of calls for its release, to no avail. Some commission members have suggested that politics may be playing a role in its release. With the presidential election now behind us, we believe that it would serve the public good if this document were made available. The 9/11 Commission Report and the other monographs have all shed light on the attacks of 9/11 and have been useful tools in efforts to prevent future attacks. Leaving one critical piece of work classified can only lead to more charges that politics is playing a role in our national security. We hope you agree with us that those charges are not what our country needs and that the release of this final monograph is the best way to shed light on critical aspects of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress

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MARK UDALL
Member of Congress

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress

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Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Porter J. Goss
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

December 2, 2004

Dear Director Goss,

Recent press reports suggest that you have requested changes to a draft report regarding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks being done by the Central Intelligence Agency's office of the Inspector General. These reports suggest you asked for specific modifications that would avoid drawing conclusions about whether individual CIA officers should be held accountable for any failures stemming from the 9/11 attacks. These reports raise questions regarding accountability within the CIA.

It is also reported that this draft report has been available since July, but has not been shared with individuals named in the document and its release has been delayed by your review of the document. The combination of the delay and requested changes potentially threatens the public trust in this document.

While it is not our intention to make available information that should remain classified for security reasons, individuals whom the Inspector General believes should be held accountable for failures leading up to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks should be held accountable. In addition, problems should be identified and corrective action should be taken to prevent future attacks. It is also our understanding that the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence have previously requested that this report be made available to Congress.

Therefore, we request the release of the full report by the Inspector General without the modifications that you have requested. Any further delays or modifications can only undermine the effectiveness of this report and the office of the Inspector General. The American people deserve to know that when mistakes are made, the appropriate people are held accountable and that we take whatever steps necessary to learn from these mistakes. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

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