U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JAN 14 2005

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General, dated December 2, 2004, concerning the classified monograph prepared by the staff of the 9-11 Commission regarding certain civil aviation issues. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter. We are sending identical responses to the other Members who joined in your letter to us.

The Administration has been working to review and declassify this monograph. Due to the monograph's length and subject matter, that review has taken some time -- it has involved review by numerous agencies, and then re-review to minimize the number of redactions necessary to avoid disclosure of classified information and security matters relating to aviation security. The review process has been considerably complicated by the statutory termination of the 9-11 Commission, which has meant that, as a legal matter, there is no one with whom to discuss possible changes. While the Commission existed, we were consistently able to quickly resolve classification issues, often with fairly minor changes in wording. That has been impossible in this case because there is no one legally authorized to agree to the kind of minor wording changes that would facilitate public release, making the process substantially more difficult. Nevertheless, we are nearing completion of the process and expect to be able to provide a redacted version of the monograph to the Archives in the near future.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you would like additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

William E. Moschella

William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General