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Collection Code: **SECLOG**  
Staff Name: **PRESIDENT BUSH**  
Document Date: **07/23/2006**  
Correspondent: **CANDIDA WOLFF**  
Subject/Description: **LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENCE SUMMARY MAIL  
RECEIVED JUL 17TH THROUGH JUL 21ST**

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BY  
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7/24/06

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2006

INFORMATION

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CANDIDA WOLFF

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENCE SUMMARY  
MAIL RECEIVED JULY 17<sup>th</sup> THROUGH JULY 21<sup>st</sup>MIDDLE EAST

- Senators Harry Reid (D, NV) and Joseph Biden (D, DE)
  - “you lack a comprehensive diplomatic strategy to deal with the current crisis in the Middle East.”
  - “United States needs someone of stature, who can speak on your behalf, who can begin to put the pieces of a political settlement together”
  - “step forward and do the hard diplomatic work required to put in place a sustainable settlement and prevent a return to the *status quo ante* where Hezbollah attacked Israel at will.”
  - “your Administration’s minimalist approach ... left a vacuum that was filled by Hezbollah, Syria, and Iran.”
- Representative John Larson (D, CT-01)
  - “support [Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki]’s declaration that Iraq’s national reconciliation policy will not include amnesty for those who have attacked or killed American troops or civilians.”
  - “vital that the United States send a clear and unequivocal message that our nation stands with the Prime Minister in opposing amnesty for those who have killed Americans.”
- Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R, FL-18) and Eliot Engel (D, NY-17)
  - “increase pressure on Damascus by implementing the full range of sanctions included in the [Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act].”
  - Syria “houses a long list of Palestinian and Islamist terrorist groups, including Hamas, and provides critical support for Hezbollah.”
  - “Syria has also had a direct hand in facilitating violence in Iraq” and “is also pursuing advanced weapons of mass destruction.”
  - “U.S. must enhance the pressure on Syria to abandon policies that threaten U.S. national security, our interests, and our allies.”
- Senator Ken Salazar (D, CO)
  - “American leadership and intense engagement that has historically been vital to positive developments in the [Middle East] is needed again today.”
  - “send a high-level delegation—perhaps headed by former Presidents Bush and Clinton—to the region to help broker a de-escalation of the crisis and a return to the path toward lasting peace.”

- Representative Dennis Moore (D, KS-03)
  - “United States must play a role in the negotiations between Israel and the Arab nations”
  - “send a representative of the U.S. government to the Middle East as quickly as possible to begin negotiations aimed at stopping the current violence between Israel and Lebanon, as well as the fighting between Israel and Palestine in Gaza.”

### **NSA SURVEILLANCE**

- Senator Russ Feingold (D, WI)
  - “reconsider your position that the NSA warrantless wiretapping is legal”
  - “Administration cannot claim that it is proceeding in good faith based on sound legal advice if it reauthorizes the warrantless wiretapping program after *Hamdan*.”
- Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D, NY-22), Henry Waxman (D, CA-30), and 2 other House Democrats
  - “grant [Office of Professional Responsibility] the necessary security clearances and allow the oversight system to do its work.”
  - “If the NSA program is justified and legal, ... there is no reason to prevent this investigation.”

### **IMMIGRATION**

- Representatives John Hostettler (R, IN-08), Lamar Smith (R, TX-21), and 50 additional House Republicans
  - “immigration enforcement is at the forefront of our constituents’ concerns.”
  - “[disapprove] of the immigration bill the Senate recently passed.”
  - “current immigration laws should be fully and completely enforced before any new guestworker program is considered.”

### **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION COMPUTER THEFT**

- Senator George Allen (R, VA)
  - “continue with your initial decision and provide credit monitoring services to the 26.5 million Veterans and active duty service members who elect to receive it.”
  - “must error on the side of caution.”