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TLC

Dear Senator Bingaman:

Thank you for your letter of February 11, regarding the Washington Post article of December 26, 2002, which made certain allegations of methods by which the United States obtains information from persons it has detained.

The Department take these allegations very seriously. As you note in your letter, any implication that the United States has "surrendered the moral high ground" could well harm our long-term national security interests, and more specifically, the War on Terror.

We are now looking into these allegations with the Department of Defense, and expect to have a more detailed reply for you shortly..

I hope that you find this information satisfactory as an interim reply. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Paula J. Dobriansky
Under Secretary
for Global Affairs

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned

The Honorable
Charles E. Grassley,
United States Senate.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 16 NOV 2004 200303827

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Drafted by Jim McNaught x7-1113
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