THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 1, 1996

Dear Mike:

On the occasion of your departure from the National Security Agency and retirement from the U.S. Navy after more than 29 years of service, I want to express my personal appreciation to you and the great men and women working for you at the National Security Agency/Central Security Service for your exceptional work over the past few years.

Whether our focus was on Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America or Asia, the NSA team rose to the challenge under your leadership to provide time-sensitive intelligence to U.S. policymakers and military commanders in support of U.S. national goals. All components of the SIGINT system contributed information that was vital to the ability of the United States to assess developing situations. This information provided important insight into escalating tensions among competing factions and nations throughout the world.

Yours is a proud tradition. The performance of the National Security Agency has made the difference between peace and war in several areas of the world over the past four years. It is difficult to serve in silence, as your mission requires. I extend my personal thanks to you and to the dedicated professionals who quietly serve our nation as members of the NSA team. Best wishes to you in retirement.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

VADM J. M. McConnell, USN
Director
National Security Agency
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