

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

September 2, 2009

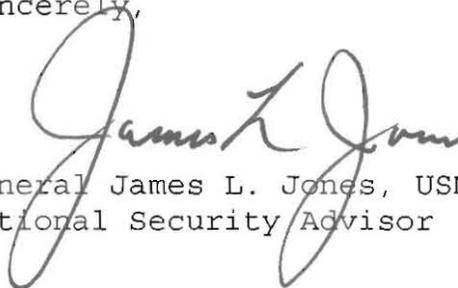
Dear Mr. Faga:

Thank you for your letters of July 21 regarding the Administration's effort to revise Executive Order 12958, as amended (the Order), in accordance with the principles enunciated in the President's May 27, 2009 Memorandum. We greatly appreciate the Board's work in soliciting a wide range of thoughtful public comments about how to revise the Order, which have been carefully considered by the interagency group drafting recommended revisions to the Order. We have also given particular attention to the Board's recommendations regarding the problem of over-classification and the establishment of a National Declassification Center. In order to protect the confidentiality of the deliberative process regarding these complex issues, we cannot agree to make draft recommendations for a presidential policy document available for public comment.

I agree that we have an historic opportunity to refine the existing Order now and to begin planning a classification system of the future that promotes innovation and deals more effectively with the challenge of classified digital data. As soon as we complete our revision of the existing Order, I would like to begin discussions with the Board about a more fundamental transformation of the security classification system.

We will be in touch to arrange such a meeting with the Board this fall.

Sincerely,



General James L. Jones, USMC (Ret.)  
National Security Advisor

Mr. Martin Faga  
Acting Chair, PIDB  
c/o Information Security Oversight Office  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 100  
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001