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TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

One Hundred Ninth Congress
Congress of the United States
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-5021

http://www.house.gov/international_relations/

October 30, 2006

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The Honorable Howard J. Krongard
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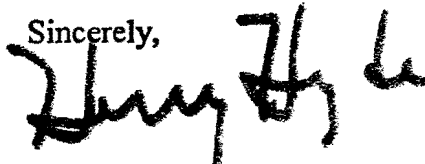
Dear Mr. Krongard:

As you may be aware, I sent a letter on June 30, 2006, to The Honorable George M. Staples, Director General of the Foreign Service, regarding personnel and promotion issues in the case of Foreign Service Officer Joan S. Wadelton. It is my understanding that certain issues remain outstanding, as you will see in the attached correspondence from Ms. Wadelton's attorney.

In this time of war, it is in the interest of us all, including the Members of the House Committee on International Relations, to assure that those who have served our country as diplomats in Iraq receive every fair consideration in the personnel and promotion process. Therefore, I am requesting an update on the results of any investigation conducted by your office and the resolution of the issues raised in this case.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



HENRY J. HYDE
Chairman

HJH:dph/mco

cc: The Honorable Tom Lantos



United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors

Office of Inspector General

NOV 30 2006

Kalijarvi, Chuzi & Newman, PC
Attn: June D.W. Kalijarvi
Suite 610
1901 L Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20036

Received

DEC - 4 2006

By The Office Of
Kalijarvi, Chuzi, & Newman, PC

Subject: OIG Hotline 07-033; Joan S. Wadelton

Dear Ms. Kalijarvi:

The Office of Inspector General received your letter dated October 6, 2006, concerning your client Joan S. Wadelton. In your letter, you indicate that it would be useful to have the results of our (OIG) investigation into the treatment of Ms. Wadelton by the Department of State, Bureau of Human Relations (HR) and our investigation of the results of promotion boards reconvened by the Human Resources, Grievance Staff (HR/G).

I spoke with Ms. Wadelton in April 2006 regarding her allegations. I advised Ms. Wadelton at that time that her concerns did not warrant an OIG investigation. I have also reviewed your October 6, 2006, letter, and determined that the appropriate office to address Ms. Wadelton's allegations against the HR bureau, and the reconvened promotion boards of HR/G, is the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). I have referred the matter for their consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Caudell

for John A. DeDona
Assistant Inspector General
for Investigations

Address correspondence to: U.S. Department of State, Office of Inspector General, Washington, D.C. 20522-0308

Howard J. Krongard, Esq.
October 6, 2006

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January 3, 2007

Howard J. Krongard, Esq.
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U.S. Department of State
Room 8100
2121 Virginia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

BY OVERNIGHT MAIL

RE: OIG Hotline 07-033; Joan S. Wadelton

Dear Mr. Krongard:

I am writing on behalf of our client, Joan Wadelton, who met with you in May. During that meeting Ms. Wadelton requested that the Office of Inspector General initiate an investigation into the treatment of her by the Department of State's Bureau of Human Resources. At that time, and in a subsequent memo (which included the attached proposal to remedy a number of defects in the Department's personnel system, Attachment 1), she also asked you to investigate the results of promotion boards that HR/G reconvened pursuant to decisions rendered in her favor by the Foreign Service Grievance Board. Having heard nothing from the Office of Inspector General concerning these issues, on October 6, 2006, I wrote to you requesting the status of Ms. Wadelton's request and provided you with the factual background for that request.

On December 4, 2006, I received a letter from John A. DeDonna, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, dated

November 30, 2006, in which he states that he is responding to my October 6, 2006, communication and advises me that Ms. Wadelton's "concerns [do] not warrant an OIG investigation." Mr. DeDona further states that the Office of Inspector General has determined that the appropriate office to address the issues raised by Ms. Wadelton concerning her treatment by the Bureau of Human Resources is the Department's Office of Civil Rights and that the matters raised by Ms. Wadelton have been referred to that office.

The statute governing Offices of Inspectors General requires such Offices to provide oversight and to investigate matters involving fraud, waste, abuse and similar acts of misconduct. Ms. Wadelton has raised issues concerning abuse of authority and tampering with federal records, e.g. the results of six reconvened promotion boards. These matters are clearly within the Inspector General's statutory jurisdiction. Referring these matters to the Department's Office of Civil Rights is an abdication of your Office's statutory responsibilities.

Ms. Wadelton met with Mr. DeDona several months ago and made it clear that the issues she is raising concerning actions by the Bureau of Human Resources are not related to discrimination based on sex or race or any other protected category but arise from systemic management problems within the Bureau. In fact discrimination has never been raised by either side in the extensive submissions regarding Ms. Wadelton's three grievances.

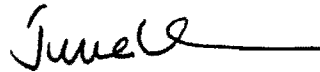
The Office of Inspector General's failure to investigate the issues raised by Ms. Wadelton also ignores other requests for action - from the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) and from Members of Congress. The Inspector General's Act requires the Office of Inspector General to report both to the Secretary of State and to the United States Congress. On June 30, 2006, and again on October 30, 2006, the Chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, Henry Hyde, requested that the Office of Inspector General investigate the issues raised by Ms. Wadelton concerning the Department's personnel and promotion processes. Chairman Hyde also requested that your Office provide him with a report on your Office's actions and findings. See Attachment 2. It is extremely dis-

Howard J. Krongard, Esq.
January 3, 2007

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turbing that the Department's Office of Inspector General has failed to respond to these requests in a timely fashion.

Very truly yours,



June D.W. Kalijarvi

CC: George M. Staples
Director General of the
Foreign Service and
Director of Human
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Barry L. Wells
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Howard J. Krongard, Esq.
January 3, 2007

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