



House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Chairman

<http://intelligence.house.gov>

For Immediate release: December 8, 2007

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On Announcement of a DOJ and CIA-IG Preliminary Inquiry into the Destruction of the Tapes

Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, released the following statement today in response to the announcement that the Department of Justice and the CIA Inspector General would conduct a joint preliminary inquiry into the 2005 destruction of videos depicting interrogations.

"I welcome the announcement by the Attorney General and the CIA Inspector General that they will conduct a preliminary inquiry into the 2005 destruction of interrogation videos. The CIA IG has demonstrated independence in the past, and this will be an important first test for Attorney General Mukasey. I strongly urge them to review the decision to destroy tapes and the CIA's failure to notify the Congressional Intelligence Committees in 2005. I have yet to receive a satisfactory answer as to why Congress was kept in the dark about this matter.

"While I welcome this preliminary inquiry, this Administration cannot be trusted to police itself. For that reason, the House Intelligence Committee will begin its own inquiry this week. We will follow the facts wherever they may lead, and we will use every tool at our disposal to conduct a fair and complete review on behalf of the House of Representatives and the American people.

"In these matters, there is often a temptation to find a single scapegoat and not address broader issues. We must resist that temptation. Our review will therefore not only focus on the decision regarding the tapes. We must also review what was depicted on the tapes -- the interrogation practices that were authorized at the highest levels of government and that, if released, had the potential to do such grave damage to the United States of America."