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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951

<http://www.house.gov/judiciary>

April 11, 2008

### By Fax and U.S. Mail

Mr. David S. Addington  
Chief of Staff to the Vice President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Addington:

I write to invite you to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary at our May 6 hearing scheduled to explore issues regarding the nature and scope of Presidential power in time of war and the Administration's approach to these questions under U.S. and international law. Given your personal knowledge of key historical facts, as well as your professional expertise and long engagement with these issues, your testimony would be invaluable to the Committee.

Among the subjects likely to be explored at the hearing are United States policies regarding interrogation of persons in the custody of the nation's intelligence services and armed forces, issues on which you appear to have played an important role. As early as 2004, written reports described you as "a principal author of the White House memo justifying torture of terrorism suspects."<sup>1</sup> Other sources describe you as participating in the preparation of the key legal memorandum concluding that the protections of the Geneva Conventions are "obsolete" when considered against the exigencies of the struggle against global terrorism.<sup>2</sup>

While many of the individuals involved in the development and legal review of the Administration's programs and policies related to such matters have either testified or commented in public, your views have not been significantly heard outside the executive branch. In consideration of the abiding interest of all Americans in these matters, and the unique

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<sup>1</sup>Millbank, *In Cheney's Shadow, Counsel Pushes the Conservative Cause*, Washington Post, Oct. 11, 2004.

<sup>2</sup>Sands, *The Green Light*, Vanity Fair, May 2008.

Mr. David S. Addington  
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information and perspective that you bring to the issues, I therefore hope that you will agree to testify at our scheduled hearing. If the date of May 6 poses a particular scheduling problem, please contact my staff as described below and we will be happy to discuss reasonable alternatives. Should you decline to testify on a cooperative basis, however, the Committee must of course proceed with its investigation and will be left with no option but compulsory process.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this invitation. So that we may plan accordingly, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-3951 as soon as possible and no later than the close of business on Monday, April 21, 2008, to discuss the details of your appearance. Any further responses and questions should similarly be directed to the Judiciary Committee office, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (tel: 202-225-3951, fax: 202-225-7680).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Conyers, Jr." in a cursive style.

John Conyers, Jr.  
Chairman

cc: Hon. Lamar S. Smith  
Hon. Jerrold Nadler  
Hon. Trent Franks  
Hon. Brian A. Benczkowski  
Ms. Margaret Stewart