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Chairman Reyes Statement on Completion of Committee Investigation

WASHINGTON, DC (November 18) – *Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Silvestre Reyes of Texas today issued the following statement regarding the Committee’s report on the investigation of possible Executive Branch violations of federal law, including the National Security Act of 1947:*

“Today, the Committee officially completed its investigation into the congressional notification practices of the Intelligence Community by voting to adopt a final report presented by Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chair Jan Schakowsky.

“In its investigation, the Committee examined sixteen specific instances, spanning three Administrations, in which the Community did not provide Congress with complete, timely, and accurate information about intelligence activities. The Committee also examined federal law and regulations concerning the provision of information about intelligence activities to Congress; congressional notification policies, practices, and procedures across the Intelligence Community; and whether those contributed to any past notification failures.

“The findings, I believe, are impressive and eye-opening. The report details the facts uncovered by the investigation in a thorough and even-handed manner. Its analysis is careful and well-founded. Its conclusions and recommendations are reasonable. I commend Ms. Schakowsky and her staff for their excellent work.

“Given the sensitive nature of the investigation’s core issues, the content of the report is classified. I can say, though, that in several specific instances, certain individuals did not adhere to the high standards set forth by the Intelligence Community and its agencies. It’s the Committee’s aim to have these standards implemented on an official level, through policy, procedure, or law.

“I am pleased to note that several of the recommendations contained in this report, including Gang of Eight reform, were largely enacted back in October when the President signed the *FY2010 Intelligence Authorization Act* into law.

“Finally, let me emphasize that the Committee supports the efforts of the intelligence workforce in its difficult mission to keep America safe. And, while there may be differences of opinion with respect to specific findings, I think that all members can agree that the Committee must be kept fully and currently informed of significant intelligence activities in order to assist the Intelligence Community and keep them well-resourced.”

In July 2009, Reyes announced the Committee's intent, in coordination with the Ranking Minority Member, to investigate the issue of how the congressional intelligence committees and Congress are kept fully and currently informed. The investigation examined several issues, including the program discussed during Director Panetta's June 24th, 2009, notification and whether there was any past decision or direction to withhold information from the Committee. The Committee also investigated Intelligence Community actions with regard to the destruction of interrogation videotapes, CIA involvement in the downing of a missionary plane in Peru, National Security Agency compliance issues, and several other classified matters.

In the course of the investigation, the Committee reviewed over thousands of pages of documents from all 16 elements of the Intelligence Community. The Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, in concert with the Intelligence Community Management Subcommittee, conducted open hearings in October 2009. In addition, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee conducted closed briefings in June and September 2009, as well as January 2010. The Committee interviewed more than 35 individuals.

The recommendations contained in the report will be sent to the Director of National Intelligence for response. The Committee has also requested that the Director prepare a plan to implement these recommendations and submit it to Congress within 30 days.