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Steven Aftergood
Federation of American Scientists
1717 K Street NW, Suite 209
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Aftergood:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the Fiscal Year 2006 Congressional Budget Justification Book for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO).

I understand that you have requested the unclassified portions of the 2006 NRO budget justification book under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, and that NRO has denied the request claiming that this material is an "operational file."

As you know, the NRO budget justification book is classified and I cannot discuss its contents.

I can, however, confirm that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, of which I am a member, is in receipt of the FY 2006 Budget Justification Book for the NRO. Committee staff have informed me that this book is currently in the Committee's possession, that this fact is unclassified, and that there are no Committee rules which prevent me from disclosing the fact that the Committee is in possession of the book.

It would seem appropriate for this document to be subject to review under the Freedom of Information Act. Of course large portions of the document will be exempt from disclosure as they are properly classified.

Sincerely,



RON WYDEN
United States Senator

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