

Department of Justice
Washington 20530

March 17, 1976

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
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SEC. & EXCH. COM. .

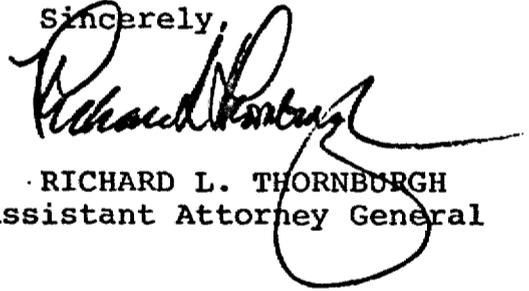
Roderick M. Hills, Chairman
Securities & Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Hills:

I understand that in your testimony of March 3, 1976 before the Senate Banking Committee, you indicated that approximately 30 domestic companies are presently under investigation by the Commission for allegedly making improper payments to foreign and domestic government officials. As you know, the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice has begun to determine whether such payments may have been made in violation of one or more provisions of federal law. Accordingly, I am requesting that the Commission authorize staff members participating in such investigations to identify the companies currently under investigation and discuss these matters, consistent with any outstanding protective orders, with attorneys from the Criminal Division or agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I would appreciate your giving this matter expedited attention.

Sincerely,



RICHARD L. THORNBURGH
Assistant Attorney General

