



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 20 1977

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of March 7, requesting the Department of State's views on H.R. 3815, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act to make it unlawful for specified persons to make certain payments to foreign officials and other foreign persons.

The Administration has carefully reviewed the problem of foreign bribery, and has made its views known through Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal's testimony on S.305 before the Senate Banking Committee on March 16, 1977. The Administration agrees with the aims of both S.305 and H.R. 3815 and is in the process of suggesting improvements to them. The Department of State is hopeful that a law can be passed which will aid the Government's efforts to deter bribery of public officials abroad.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Bennet".

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

The Honorable
Harley O. Staggars, Chairman
Committee on Interstate and
Foreign Commerce