



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL - 1 2003

Dear Mr. Waxman:

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has asked that we forward to you the attached response to your letter of June 4 inquiring about documentation provided to the IAEA on alleged sales of uranium from Niger to Iraq.

In forwarding the letter, we note for the record that the IAEA's answers to questions 4 and 5 omit the context in which the Administration provided the IAEA Iraq Nuclear Verification Officer (INVO) information about the alleged procurement attempts. The IAEA states that the information regarding alleged sales of uranium to Iraq from Niger was passed to the IAEA "without qualification" and that "no specific comments were provided with the documents."

In fact, when the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna (UNVIE) on February 4 gave INVO Director Jacques Baute and key INVO staff information on alleged Iraqi interest in uranium from Niger, the information was presented with a caveat. The U.S. Mission allowed Mr. Baute to read the talking points prepared for the presentation, which included the following qualification: "We cannot confirm these reports and have questions regarding some specific claims." Mission discussions with Mr. Baute and INVO staff on at least two other occasions included similar caveats.

We hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul V. Kelly".

Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable,
Henry A. Waxman,
Committee on Government Reform,
House of Representatives.