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CITE TEHRAN [redacted]

TO: DIRECTOR [redacted]

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RYBAT EYES ONLY OGC

HR70-14

FOR JOHN GREANEY FROM HELMS

APPROVED FOR RELEASE(U)
DATE: MAR 2008

REF: DIRECTOR [redacted]

1. Herewith are the remarks which you requested for John Warner's farewell party. Hope they are what you want. BEGIN TEXT. I much appreciate being given this means of wishing John well, on this the occasion of his retirement. One of the signs of a Washington agency coming of age is the sudden swelling of its retirement rolls, so John joins a host of others who, as nearly as I can judge, are thoroughly enjoying a new life, some quietly, some with a bit of publicity here and there! (paragraph) Thinking back over the years, I believe it is fair to say that John has had a rich life in the Agency. When he was handling Congressional relations, he had a relatively simple task: he was to make friends for the Agency on Capitol Hill while at the same time making sure that he knew what successive Directors were doing behind his back! Allen Dulles not only regarded himself as the "great white case officer", but also believed that no one knew John Tabor better than another upstate New Yorker. As for Clarence Cannon, he always called Allen "Mr. Secretary", which obviously unsettled everyone. John never knew whether to laugh or cry. Relations between Chairman Cannon and Director Dulles were best epitomized by an injunction which the former delivered to the latter during a hearing one hot summer Sunday afternoon, "If you don't want your secrets to leak, never tell them to any Congressman or Senator." One can imagine how sparing in

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language some of those hearings were! When Mr. McCone took over, John was to learn that Allen Dulles was no exception. What happened at Burning Tree any weekend with George Mahon would keep John on the griddle for days. Red Raborn redesigned the Vietnamese war ~~lobby~~ ^{every week} with the same Senators for whom he had built the Polaris.

In short, each Director regarded himself as his own best Congressional liaison officer, and John could damned well pick up the pieces. It made the job an i-n-t-r-i-g-u-i-n-g one, shall we say? (paragraph) When John turned over Congressional liaison to Jack Maury and went back full time to working with Larry Houston, he must have started thoughts germinating in his mind on how the General Counsel's office should be run. I have no reliable statistics to support my assertion, but I have the impression that when John took over in Larry's place, he contrived to build the General Counsel's office faster and made the staff larger than at any time in history -- and this to a considerable degree. Having succeeded in garnering an unprecedented number of lawsuits, he hired an unprecedented number of lawyers. Having by this device upgraded the job to the salary level of cabinet rank, he must have looked around him, decided he had no more worlds to conquer, and very wisely decided to leave to his successor the joys of presiding over the most exciting legal activity the Agency has ever known. John has always understood that youth must be served, that youth must have its opportunity. He has now passed on the baton and the glory that goes with it. As many a statesman has learned, a wise leader quits when he is ahead.

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(paragraph) John in his quiet way continued conscientiously to perform through the years in the US Army Reserve. In fact, most of his colleagues in the Agency did not even realize he had stayed in the Army. Suddenly one day, like the Army mule bursting through a paper hoop, John was there before us with the star of a general officer twinkling on his shoulder. Those who had not been paying close attention suddenly realized that come the outbreak of war John would be commanding us all. Frankly, I do not remember whether that was then regarded as a sobering thought or not! (paragraph) Good luck, John, and all best wishes from those of us with whom you served so long and so faithfully. END TEXT.

2. If you find any glaring inaccuracies in this text, please let me know right away. My memory may not be all that accurate.

Warm regards.

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