THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 5, 2007

Dear Chairman Waxman:

This is to thank you and respond to your letter of March 30, 2007, inviting former Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff Andrew Card to appear for an on the record interview with your Committee. It is our understanding that this interview will address White House procedures for handling classified information and alleged improper disclosures of classified information, including questions relating to the disclosure of Ms. Valerie Plame Wilson's status as an employee of the CIA. It is our further understanding that the proposed interview would cover the time during which Mr. Card served in the White House.

In keeping with longstanding Executive Branch policy, we must respectfully decline your invitation to Mr. Card on his behalf. Current and former senior White House officials such as the Chief of Staff to the President have historically not been available to Congress to testify, or be interviewed, about their activities in serving the President. Although limited exceptions to this policy have been made in extraordinary circumstances, we do not believe there is a basis for departing from that policy in this instance.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: The Honorable Thomas M. Davis III
The Honorable Andrew Card