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By KJ NARA Date 12/15/11

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Congress of the United States  
Committee on International Relations

House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

# 10614

May 13, 1977

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.  
CHIEF OF STAFF

The Honorable W. Michael Blumenthal  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, I have long been interested in ensuring that American corporations abroad act in a socially and politically responsible manner. In particular, my concern has run to the reported involvement of some American multinational corporations in the internal political affairs of foreign countries, centering around questionable payments to foreign public officials and political parties.

Your own personal statements in support of corporate bribery legislation were most welcome, particularly in contrast to the less than enthusiastic initiatives of the previous Administration in this regard. While I know that you share a fundamental belief in the importance of strong legislation to control illegal corporate payments, I wish to bring to your attention one aspect of the bribery problem which I feel is not adequately addressed in the legislation currently under consideration. As the attached copy of my statement to the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Finance indicates, it is my belief that legislative restrictions should be placed on corporate payments with a political, as well as business, motivation. The statement expands upon my view of the problem and describes the kinds of payments I feel should be included in an anti-bribery statute.

**Committee on International Relations**

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I would welcome the response of the Administration to this proposal, which has already been submitted to the appropriate House committee and which I intend to pursue as the bribery legislation reaches the House floor. While I have not drafted specific language, I feel the thrust of the proposal is sufficiently clear to allow public discussion on its merits. The exact form, as to whether the measure should be directed solely toward disclosure or some sort of criminal sanction could be resolved if the overall direction of this type of legislation is considered desirable.

I look forward to your comments on this suggestion.

Yours sincerely,



Michael J. Harrington  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
International Development

MJH:lts  
Attachment