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DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20511

JUL 11 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

This letter responds to your correspondence of July 6 regarding pre-election classified intelligence briefings to former Secretary of State Clinton. As initiated by President Truman in 1952, candidates for president and vice president have been offered intelligence briefings on developments abroad and significant national security matters that will face an incoming administration. The purpose of these briefings is to prepare for the orderly transition of our government, by ensuring a president-elect is aware of significant issues and national security matters.

These briefings traditionally have been offered to eligible candidates for president and vice president, as defined in the Presidential Transition Improvements Act of 2015 and its predecessors, after the nominating conventions. Nominees for president and vice president receive these classified briefings by virtue of their status as candidates, and do not require separate security clearances before the briefings. Briefings for the candidates will be provided on an even-handed, non-partisan basis. Candidates are advised of the classified nature of the material, and operational and policy matters are not addressed.

Accordingly, I do not intend to withhold briefings from any officially nominated, eligible candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Clapper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James R. Clapper

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