

008-95

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 17, 1995

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-322) significantly increased the penalties for violations of passport and visa statutes (Title 18 United States Code, Sections 1541-1547) which the Department of State has responsibility for enforcing. This was an important step in establishing a more substantial deterrent to these crimes that threaten the integrity of U.S. passport and visa documents, affect the ability to control our borders, and support other serious criminal activities.

To ensure that the actual sentences imposed for these offenses are also increased, the relevant sentencing guidelines (Section 2L2.1 and 2L2.2) must be amended. The Department of State strongly urges the Commission to include amendments raising these guidelines when it submits its proposals to Congress later this year.

Your consideration of this important matter and the Department's position is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Warren Christopher

The Honorable
Richard P. Conaboy,
Chairman,
United States Sentencing Commission.