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**From:** CN=Tom Samoluk/O=ARRB  
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**ComposedDate:** 03/14/1997  
**ComposedDate\_Time:** 10:37:11 AM  
**Subject:** Today's Congressional Contacts Update

Per our conversation this morning, I spoke with Michelle Mrdeza and Brian Dettelbach. I would describe both conversations as positive. Details are provided below. Michelle Mrdeza Despite sounding very busy this morning, Michelle took my call and was upbeat. I said that because she was involved in so many other issues that she had described at our meeting, I was assuming that there had no developments relative to the Board since last week. She said that was correct, but that she was meeting with another Subcommittee staff person today to work on a fact sheet that would go to Subcommittee Chair Kolbe and the other members of the Subcommittee soon. Every indication is that she will be advocating for the Board extension. I asked Michelle for advise on contact with Burton's staff. In response to her question, I told her that Burton had gotten the Annual Report and that between you and me we had put three or four telephone calls into Kevin Binger. Mrdeza suggested sending a letter to Binger and then "walking away." Basically, her point was that if they contact us fine, but that "we" (that is, her and the Subcommittee, and the Board, I guess) could later say "we tried," if they complained about the Subcommittee moving the extension along through authorizing language in the appropriations bill. Because she was still positive about the extension, I did not keep her on the phone any longer. Per Mrdeza's suggestion, I will e-mail a letter from you to Binger for your review. Brian Dettelbach Brian has not spoken with Kim Newman. He is anxious to find where Podesta and OMB are on our extension. I told him that it apparently was under review and, to be true to the process, they were looking at if there were alternatives to the Board extension. I took the opportunity to reiterate that the critical FBI and CIA records would not get reviewed by the Board if there was not an extension. If the decision was no extension, I said we would respect that, but we want people to know the implications, both with the press and the public. Brian said that he agreed and noted that he hoped that the extension could be done in an appropriations bill. He had a recent conversation with Hertling in which he reiterated that point. If it cannot be done through the appropriations bill, he said that there would be a hearing, which he would like to avoid. Interestingly in discussing the White House/OMB position, Dettelbach said that opposition from them would not necessarily mean that Glenn would not cosponsor a bill, but that it would make it harder for him to do. He said that at some point he needs to know the OMB position and talk to Newman because it will be Glenn's first question when the matter is raised with him. His hope is that he can go to Glenn at some point soon to say that Specter wants to do it and the Administration is with us. I concluded the conversation by telling Brian that we would call him as soon as we learned something on either front.

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