

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As the co-chairs of the Congressional Study Group on Germany, we are writing in response to the recent allegations of the National Security Agency's (NSA) intelligence surveillance targeting German Chancellor Angela Merkel, a close friend of the United States. To be clear, we are dismayed and disapprove of these alleged espionage tactics directed against Chancellor Merkel.

As close twenty-first century allies, Germany and the United States have worked diligently to rebuild and strengthen their relationship in the decades after World War II and, especially, since the end of the Cold War. Chancellor Merkel, in particular, has been working to ensure the United States and Germany's strong economic and political ties remain unshakable. The authorization granted permitting Chancellor Merkel's phone to be surveilled represents a serious error in judgment that must be rectified so that there will be no lasting damage to this critical, bilateral relationship. This misstep provides an opportunity to reevaluate the focus of intelligence activities involving vital friends and allies.

The long-standing "Five Eyes" pact between the United States Government and the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Australia governments has bolstered the relationships among these English speaking allies over the years. The Five Eyes intelligence agreements evolved at a time in history when nations were recovering from a devastating world war. Since the establishment of the Fives Eyes agreements, it now seems appropriate that your Administration thoroughly review the strategy framing which countries will continue to garner the focus of our government's intelligence activities. We submit the strong bilateral relationship enjoyed between the United States and a reunified Germany has laid a foundation for allowing our leaders to operate on par with those nations currently party to the Five Eyes. Therefore, we

recommend that your Administration immediately enter into bilateral discussions with the German Government to consummate an agreement expanding the Five Eyes pact to include Germany.

Matters of intelligence gathering are nothing short of critical to the United States' capability to defend our homeland, and we have the utmost respect for the Intelligence professionals working tirelessly to carry out these missions. Given our increasingly limited resources, expanding Five Eyes will allow greater collaboration and intelligence sharing to more effectively advance the security interests of the United States and its allies.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent and sensitive matter.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Dent  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress