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From the Secretary of State

17 July 2008

Andrew Tyrie MP
House of Commons
London
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I understand that Simon Manley, Director for Defence and Strategic Threats, spoke to your office on 3 July. I am sorry that you were not available to take his call in person, but I know the particular interest you have taken in rendition and I wanted you to be aware that I would be making a Written Ministerial Statement that day. As you know, in my statement I explained that the US have confirmed that, with the exception of the two cases related to Diego Garcia in 2002, there have been no other instances in which US intelligence flights landed in the UK, our Overseas Territories or the Crown Dependencies, with a detainee on board since 11 September 2001. I enclose a copy for your reference. I would also like to respond to the points from your letter of 19 May.

You asked about the treatment of the individuals concerned with the two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002. I can confirm that the US Government have told us that neither individual was part of the High Value Detainee Programme, or held in US secret detention facilities, or subjected to so called enhanced interrogation techniques, such as waterboarding, by the US.

We have not conducted an exhaustive analysis of current US interrogation techniques, but we expect all countries to comply with their international obligations. If there is any question of torture, our policy is clear: we unreservedly condemn torture. We have always condemned torture. Our allies are aware of our rejection of torture and our expectation that they will comply with international law.

I know that you are waiting for a final response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. My officials are working on this matter and will respond to you shortly.

DAVID MILIBAND