



**Homeland
Security**

December 16, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Thank you for your December 6, 2016 letter. Secretary Johnson asked that I respond on his behalf.

As your letter notes, on November 30, representatives from the Departments of Homeland Security and State provided a classified briefing to your staff, which included a discussion on the circumstances surrounding the agreement. The Department of State is the lead federal agency for the agreement. Accordingly, the Department of Homeland Security defers to the Department of State regarding your request to declassify the agreement between the United States and Australia on the subject of the admission of refugees now residing in Nauru and Papua New Guinea for resettlement into the United States.

Thank you again for your interest in this important issue. A separate, identical response will be sent to Chairman Goodlatte who co-signed your letter. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Tia Johnson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

M. Tia Johnson
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs