



**U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**

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Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

The Special Counsel

July 1, 2008

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: OSC File No. DI-07-2534

Dear Mr. President:

I received a disclosure from an anonymous whistleblower at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Washington, D.C. The whistleblower alleged that pornographic images were stored on an OCIO computer server.

I required the Honorable Charles F. Conner, then-Acting Secretary, to conduct an investigation into this disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). Acting Secretary Conner and his successor, the Honorable Edward T. Schafer, tasked the Office of the Inspector General with conducting the investigation.

As discussed in the attached Analysis of Disclosure, the agency investigation substantiated the whistleblower's allegation that the OCIO computer server contained pornographic images. The investigation concluded that the images had been restored to the computer server during a previous inquiry into similar allegations. Once the inquiry had been completed, the images were inadvertently left on the server. The images were completely removed from the computer server by February 27, 2008, and the agency concluded that the allegations have been fully addressed, all necessary remedial actions have been taken, and no further steps by USDA are required.

The whistleblower provided comments on the report. As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I am now transmitting to you the report and the whistleblower's comments.

I have reviewed the original disclosure, the report, and the whistleblower's comments. Based on that review, I have determined that the agency's report contains all of the information required by statute and that its findings appear to be reasonable.

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As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I have sent a copy of the report and the whistleblower's comments to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. I have also filed copies of the agency report and the whistleblower's comments in our public file and closed the matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bloch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott J. Bloch

Enclosures