APPENDIX C: LETTER, HEAD OF NTAC TO AUTHOR



Organised Crime, Drugs and International Group

National Technical Assistance Centre
PO Box 12391, London SW1P 1BD

Switchboard 020 7273 4000 Fax 0207 901 4530 Direct Line 020 7273 4501

E-mail: ian.humphreys@homeoffice.gsl.gov.uk

Our Ref Your Ref Date

26 June 2002

Mr F Gonzalez 5 Axis Road Watchfield, Swindon Wiltshire SN6 8SQ

Dear Mr Gonzalez

I refer to your recent e-mail communications with the Home Office relative to my organisation.

To assist you with your understanding of the type of work we are involved with I enclose an information pack, which describes NTAC's role. Although our existence and the type of work we are involved in is publicly acknowledged, given the nature of our work as it relates to National Security issues, I am not able to comment about any detail related to our technical capabilities. I do of course understand this may be a source of frustration to you as it relates to your research.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress; NTAC is a Home Office and not MI5 unit, although I understand there may be some misunderstanding in this respect as our operational base is located within the Security Services premises in Thames House.

I note your thesis is addressing the issue of the scale of data being handled by Law Enforcement and Intelligence staff. Whilst I understand this may be an issue in some instances, in so far as NTAC is concerned we are only permitted to operate within the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (Chapter 1) which places strict limitations upon the circumstances under which communications may be intercepted under the power of a warrant. Sections 11 and 12 of this legislation deal with the legal obligations placed upon Communication Service Providers (CSPs) to provide technical assistance to enable the lawful interception of communications. In respect of the requirement for some CSPs to maintain an Interception capability you may be interested to visit www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm 200102/cmstand/delg 10 which reports upon the draft Regulation of Investigatory Powers (maintenance of Interception capability) Order 2002. The draft order gives some high level publicly available details of

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I trust this information may be of some interest to you in your research. Given the background of our work I have endeavoured to outline to you in this letter I feel it unlikely I would be able to provide you with any further information in the future.

Yours sincerely

Ian Humphreys Assistant Chief Constable Head of NJAC

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