

Government Accountability Project

National Office

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April 3, 2009

Robert Zoellick, President
The World Bank
1818 H St. NW
Washington, DC, 20433

Dear Mr. Zoellick:

We write to you with a concern about the Department of Institutional Integrity (INT). It has come to our attention that Leonard McCarthy, Vice President for Institutional Integrity, is engulfed in a political controversy in South Africa that reflects poorly on his professional conduct.

As you may be aware, the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence (JSCI) in the South African Parliament issued a special report on the sources, compilation, distribution and leaking of the “Browse Mole” Consolidated Report in November, 2007. The JSCI report, now receiving international attention, was devastating in its conclusions regarding the judgment and conduct of Mr. McCarthy. Among other things, the report stated that he and his unit, the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO), authorized the preparation and distribution of an intelligence document that was illegal and inflammatory. Moreover, the DSO, under Mr. McCarthy’s leadership, engaged in unauthorized and improper intelligence gathering. The result of the exercise has been a political controversy at the highest levels of government.

Most recently, credible allegations have surfaced in South Africa questioning the impartiality of investigations conducted under Mr. McCarthy’s leadership and a lack of information security at the DSO. Action taken today, however, appears to guarantee that the allegations will never be examined in a court.

In light of the seriousness and credibility of the allegations, the World Bank should take action to guarantee that its own institutional integrity cannot be compromised, particularly as it is poised to assume responsibility for the management of dramatically increased resources in response to the global financial crisis. We trust that you will take immediate steps to ensure ethical, impartial and professional standards at the Bank’s investigative unit. We look forward to a written response that details the steps the Bank shall take to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,



Beatrice Edwards
International Program Director