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Statement by James W. Ziglar
Commissioner
U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

The Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General (OIG) has conducted thousands of audits and investigations involving the various Justice component agencies, including the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The focus of tonight's CBS "60 Minutes" story on past OIG findings regarding INS cases is a look back in time rather than a look at what we've learned and where we're going.

We ought not underestimate the television viewing audience – they would be interested in the fact that in the first few weeks of this year INS apprehended numerous murder suspects, suspected child molesters, suspected drug dealers and individuals suspected of being connected to terrorist organizations.

Six years ago, the OIG investigated allegations of wrongdoing in the INS Miami District and in an unprecedented departure from OIG protocol, recommended specific disciplinary action. Only one of fourteen employees accepted personal responsibility for the situation disclosed by the investigation. That employee, Walter Cadman, was a focus of tonight's "60 Minutes" story. Mr. Cadman accepted a demotion and reassignment and worked hard to redeem himself.

Today, Mr. Cadman directs the INS National Security Unit, an office he began in 1997 after identifying, to INS leadership, a vital unmet need. The importance of the National Security Unit was displayed in the aftermath of September 11 and Mr. Cadman led the unit brilliantly. I am proud of the work this office has done under his leadership and I am supportive of their continued efforts. Like other Americans, I respect a man who takes responsibility for his actions, moves forward, and continues to serve his country. Also like other Americans, I believe in forgiveness and redemption. I stand by Mr. Cadman.

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