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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475
September 25, 2006

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The Honorable John D. Negroponte
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director  Negroponte:

Over the weekend The New York Times and other newspapers carried stories purporting to describe conclusions contained in a classified National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) related to terrorism. I am writing to ask that you declassify, to the fullest extent possible, the key judgments from that April 2006 NIE.

In your statement responding to the disclosure of portions of this NIE you noted, "Characterizing only a small handful of those judgments distorts the broad strategic framework the NIE is assessing -- in this case, trends in global terrorism." I agree and think declassifying and releasing the full range of conclusions in the NIE will not only provide a complete picture of the Intelligence Community's assessment but also will contribute greatly to the public debate and discussion about counterterrorism policies.

I condemn the leak of classified information, but believe that intelligence can often be framed in a way to inform the public without endangering sources and methods or otherwise damaging national security. I think this is such an opportunity and I encourage you to release the NIE conclusions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV
Vice Chairman