



The National Security Archive

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URGENT: EXPEDITED PROCESSING REQUESTED

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Public Affairs Office
Washington, DC 20511

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request, in reply refer to: 20061793DNI010

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I hereby request the following record regardless of format, medium or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs:

The April 2006 National Intelligence Estimate titled "Trends in Global Terrorism: Implications for the United States."

Furthermore I would like to request expedited processing. This FOIA request clearly meets the criteria for expedited processing under applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(E), as there exists a "compelling need" to review materials because the information is sought "by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information," and is "urgen[ty] [needed] to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity."

This document discusses matters which are of enormous interests to the American public. The George W. Bush administration has maintained that the fight against terrorism is one of its primary national security and foreign policy initiatives. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the American fear of terrorism was at its peak and the administration supported the current war in Iraq, both before and after the invasion, as a major effort on the part of the United States government's campaign to decrease or eliminate terrorism. The public debates over the United State government's response to terrorism and the war in Iraq are covered in the media on a daily basis.

Between the time document's existence became public, Sunday, September 24, 2006, and Monday, September 25, 2006, its contents have been described by many press outlets, including, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Guardian*, *Reuters*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *The New York Times*. A September 25 search on Google News for "Iraq NIE" returned over 400 results.

The entry of this NIE into the public discourse simply by knowledge of its existence and general contents has already grabbed the attention of the public and the press. According to the *New York Times*, this is the first estimate to be produced regarding terrorism since that war began. Therefore,

this document is the best information the government can provide in order to inform the public about the level of terrorism that currently exists and also serves as a gauge of how effective the administration's policies have been in decreasing that threat level. National Intelligence Estimates are the most authoritative documents that the intelligence community produces and, as such, are the best way to know what the community's assessments are of United States progress in combating terrorism since the Iraq war began. Further, President Bush announced in August 2006, after the publication of this NIE, that "the world is safer" because of the war in Iraq. Meanwhile, the *Los Angeles Times* states that this NIE describes an increased terrorist threat to the interests of the United States and that the war in Iraq is the primary reason for the increase. The public has a paramount interest in and need to know the truth about the current terrorist threat. The factors which increase terrorism impact the lives and interests of all Americans and there is an enormous demand to know the effectiveness of the administration's policies in achieving the goals of elimination to decreasing the terrorist threat.

According to statements made by United States Intelligence Director John Negroponte, the portion of the NIE being reported to the public represents only a small and narrowly focused part of the overall intelligence estimate. Negroponte argued that the representation of the document made by the press so far is not accurate. Further, White House Press Secretary Tony Snow stated on September 25, 2006 that, "one thing that the reports do not say is that the war in Iraq has made terrorism worse." Without the document, the public is unable to draw its own conclusion about the document and its contents. The public cannot be accurately informed with only partial and vague information. If the administration's argument that the public is being misinformed is correct, then the only way to accurately inform the public regarding the document's contents is to release the document. On the night of Monday, September 25, 2006, Negroponte stated that he would consider declassifying the document given the public interest. The intelligence community has already acknowledged the enormous and immediate public interest in the document's declassification, thus establishing its need for an expedited review.

The value of the information in this record will be lost if the information is not disseminated quickly. See generally 22 C.F.R. § 171.12. I certify that the statements contained in this letter regarding the alleged activity and public concern are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

The National Security Archive, as a long established member of the news media is primarily engaged in disseminating information. Through our electronic briefing books and other publications we bring immediate attention to breaking stories on government policy. For our publication history, please see our Web site, www.nsarchive.org. Furthermore, the National Security Archive qualifies for waiver of search and review fees as a representative of the news media. This request is made as part of a scholarly and news research project and not for commercial use. Please notify me before incurring photocopying costs over \$100.

Sincerely,



Roger Strother

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Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. John Hackett
Director, Information Management Office
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Re: DNI Control No. DF-2006-00035
Archive No. 20061793DNE010

Dear Mr. Hackett:

This letter is a response to your letter of February 09, 2007. You stated that the April 2006 NIE which we were seeking had been partially released and was available on the ODN's external website. I appreciate your assistance in helping us locate this document on-line before we could incur fees related to photocopying.

I still wish to ask for your office to review the entire document for release to the public even though its key judgments have been released. As you know, this document is an important factor in current U.S. foreign policy making. The disclosure of details from this document is likely to inform the public need for information regarding the current global political situation and the U.S. role in it.

Thank you for your assistance; please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Strother".

Roger Strother