

*The following segment ran on WCVB, an ABC affiliate in Boston, Massachusetts on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 11:09 PM ET:*

WCVB ANCHOR: A threat of a bioterror attack in this country is real. Is the U.S. prepared for such an attack? New tonight, NewsCenter 5's Todd Kazakiewich caught up with the nation's top intelligence chief in Cambridge.

DNI McCONNELL: So as we face the future, adding weapons of mass destruction, to include biological, which is my personal greatest worry.

REPORTER: In a speech tonight at Harvard's Institute of Politics, John Michael McConnell, Director of National Intelligence, emphasized the need to be on the watch for new forms of terrorism. McConnell's comments came on the same day that a new report to Congress revealed the high probability of a biological attack in this country by 2013.

DNI McCONNELL: If you look at the history of intelligence, we're not very prepared for anything that's ever happened. It's because Americans don't like spies.

REPORTER: McConnell said one way to fight the threat of bioterrorism is to increase security at biological research labs. During a question and answer session with the audience, the discussion turned to more traditional forms of terrorism, such as the recent attack in Mumbai.

AUDIENCE QUESTION: Some commentators have said that the attacks in Mumbai mark a new episode and new tactics in the struggle against global terrorism. What's your view?

DNI McCONNELL: Democratic systems that promote free speech and free movement and open discussion are incredibly vulnerable to someone who is willing to die in the context of being a suicide bomber or suicide attacker. So, I don't see it so much as new, but a continuation.

REPORTER: A continuation that is likely to broaden its scope to include biological warfare. This report also finds that right now terrorist groups don't have the ability to carry out a biological attack because they don't have the know how. But that would change if and when they find scientists willing to cooperate. Reporting in Cambridge, Todd Kazakiewich, NewsCenter 5 tonight.