

manner that keeps the American people safe and secure.

Our reviews, and the steps that we've taken and will continue to take, go to the heart of the kind of intelligence and homeland security we need in the 21st century. Just as Al Qaida and its allies are constantly evolving and adapting their efforts to strike us, we have to constantly adapt and evolve to defeat them, because as we saw on Christmas, the margin for error is slim and the consequences of failure can be catastrophic.

As these violent extremists pursue new havens, we intend to target Al Qaida wherever they take root, forging new partnerships to deny them sanctuary, as we are doing currently with the Government in Yemen. As our adversaries seek new recruits, we'll constantly review and rapidly update our intelligence and our institutions. As they refine our tactics, we'll enhance our defenses, including smarter screening and security at airports and invest-

ing in the technologies that might have detected the kind of explosives used on Christmas.

In short, we need our intelligence, homeland security, and law enforcement systems, and the people in them, to be accountable and to work as intended: collecting, sharing, integrating, analyzing, and acting on intelligence as quickly and effectively as possible to save innocent lives, not just most of the time, but all of the time. That's what the American people deserve. As President, that's exactly what I will demand.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:43 p.m. in the Grand Foyer at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Umar Farouk Abdulmuttalab, suspect in the December 25, 2009, explosive device incident on Northwest Airlines Flight 253. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Senator Byron L. Dorgan's Decision Not To Seek Reelection *January 5, 2010*

Senator Dorgan should be very proud of his more than 30 years of devoted service in the United States Congress and to the people of North Dakota. From fighting for our energy future to standing with North Dakota's families through difficult economic times, Senator Dorgan has been a trusted leader for the people of his State. He has also been a champion

for our family farmers and a powerful voice for Indian Country, particularly through his recent work to improve Indian health care services.

Michelle and I extend our gratitude for his service to our Nation and our very best wishes for the future for him and his family.

Remarks Honoring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Educators *January 6, 2010*

Thank you, everybody. Please have a seat. Thank you. Well, it is wonderful to be here. Barbara, thank you for the outstanding introduction. I want to acknowledge a few other special guests that we have here. First of all, my terrific Vice President, mainly because he takes orders from Dr. Jill Biden. *[Laughter]* Dr. Jill Biden and Vice President Joe Biden are here. Somebody—I've never met somebody who's more passionate about making

sure that young people do well than my Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan—Arne Duncan. My—before I won a Nobel Peace Prize, this guy had won it, and nobody questioned whether he deserved it or not—*[laughter]*—my Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu.

Three wonderful Members of Congress who have devoted a lot of energy to the issue of science and math education; I want to acknowledge them. Representative Bart Gor-