

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1338

To provide for the designation of an Assistant Secretary of State for Victims of International Terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To provide for the designation of an Assistant Secretary of State for Victims of International Terrorism.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR VICTIMS**

4 **OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.**

5 (a) DESIGNATION OF POSITION.—The Secretary of
6 State shall designate one of the Assistant Secretaries of
7 State authorized by section 1(c)(1) of the State Depart-
8 ment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
9 2651a(c)(1)) as the Assistant Secretary of State for Vic-
10 tims of International Terrorism.

1 (b) DIRECTIVE GOVERNING THE ASSISTANT SEC-
2 RETARY OF STATE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 State shall issue a directive governing the position of
6 the Assistant Secretary.

7 (2) ELEMENTS OF THE DIRECTIVE.—The direc-
8 tive issued under paragraph (1) shall set forth, con-
9 sistent with this section—

10 (A) the duties of the Assistant Secretary;

11 (B) the relationships between the Assistant
12 Secretary and other officials of the Department
13 of State;

14 (C) any delegation of authority from the
15 Secretary of State to the Assistant Secretary;
16 and

17 (D) such matters as the Secretary con-
18 siders appropriate.

19 (c) DUTIES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary
21 shall have as his or her principal responsibility the
22 overall supervision (including oversight of policy and
23 resources) within the Department of State of all
24 matters relating to American victims of international

1 terrorism and efforts to bring international terrorists
2 to justice.

3 (2) PARTICIPATION OF THE ASSISTANT SEC-
4 RETARY.—

5 (A) PRIMARY ROLE.—Except as provided
6 in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Assistant
7 Secretary, or a designee, shall participate in all
8 interagency groups or organizations within the
9 executive branch of Government, particularly the
10 Department of Justice, that assess, analyze, or
11 review United States planned or ongoing poli-
12 cies, programs, or actions that have a direct
13 bearing on efforts to bring international terror-
14 ists to justice for actions affecting Americans
15 abroad, including interagency committees con-
16 cerned with international terrorism and
17 counter-terrorism.

18 (B) REQUIREMENT FOR DESIGNATION.—
19 Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to groups or
20 organizations on which the Secretary of State
21 or the Undersecretary of State for Arms Con-
22 trol and International Security sits, unless such
23 official designates the Assistant Secretary to at-
24 tend in his stead.

25 (C) NATIONAL SECURITY LIMITATION.—

1 (i) WAIVER BY PRESIDENT.—The
2 President may waive the provisions of sub-
3 paragraph (A) if inclusion of the Assistant
4 Secretary would not be in the national se-
5 curity interests of the United States.

6 (ii) WAIVER BY OTHERS.—With re-
7 spect to an interagency group or organiza-
8 tion, or meeting thereof, working with ex-
9 ceptionally sensitive information contained
10 in compartments under the control of the
11 Director of Central Intelligence or the Sec-
12 retary of Defense, such Director or Sec-
13 retary, as the case may be, may waive the
14 provision of subparagraph (A) if inclusion
15 of the Assistant Secretary would not be in
16 the national security interests of the
17 United States.

18 (iii) TRANSMISSION OF WAIVER TO
19 CONGRESS.—Any waiver of participation
20 under clause (i) or (ii) shall be transmitted
21 in writing to the appropriate committees of
22 Congress.

23 (3) RELATIONSHIP TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
24 COMMUNITY.—The Assistant Secretary shall be the
25 principal policy community representative to the

1 criminal justice community on international ter-
2 rorism affecting Americans abroad.

3 (4) REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES.—The As-
4 sistant Secretary shall have responsibility within the
5 Department of State for—

6 (A) the report required pursuant to section
7 2; and

8 (B) other reports being prepared by the
9 Department of State as of the date of enact-
10 ment of this Act relating to international ter-
11 rorism affecting Americans abroad.

12 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**
13 **AFFECTING AMERICANS ABROAD.**

14 The Secretary of State shall transmit to the Congress
15 annually a report on international terrorism affecting
16 Americans abroad and United States efforts to bring to
17 justice international terrorists for actions affecting Ameri-
18 cans abroad. The report may be submitted in classified
19 and unclassified form and shall include the following infor-
20 mation:

21 (1) The number of Americans kidnapped, killed,
22 and otherwise directly affected by the actions of
23 international terrorists.

1 (2) The actions of the Departments of State
2 and Justice to obtain justice for American victims of
3 international terrorism.

4 (3) A list of known international terrorists.

5 (4) Recommendations for legislative and other
6 actions to bring individual terrorists to justice in the
7 United States.

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