

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LETTERS TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ON STRENGTHENING OUR NA- TIONAL SECURITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share the following letters that I have sent to President Obama urging him to implement four bipartisan proposals to strengthen our national security. It is disappointing that the administration has not adopted these proposals that would make our country safer.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 12, 2010.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
President,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: "National Security is too important to become a partisan issue." This sentence was the opening line in a January 11 USA Today op-ed jointly authored by Lee Hamilton and Thomas Kean, co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission. Last week, you, too, said, "Now is not a time for partisanship, it's a time for citizenship—a time to come together and work together with the seriousness of purpose that our national security demands." I could not agree more with this sentiment.

No nation, including America, can hope to win this long battle against al Qaeda and like foes if the war effort is marked by partisanship. Sadly, not only has partisanship infused the rhetoric surrounding national security discussions, it has actually obstructed the critical role of congressional oversight. Too often in recent months partisanship has resulted in withholding of information, unanswered letters and briefings denied by this administration.

The stakes are too high and the cost of failure is too great for petty politics to rule the day. The White House has a moral obligation to actively and consistently reach out to the minority party in Congress, to be forthcoming with information and to provide access to all levels of government.

Hamilton and Kean go on to write, "We intend to monitor the implementation of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations and report on new national security threats." I urge you to encourage this effort by bringing back these two co-chairs for a six-month period to conduct a formal review and 9/11 Commission follow-up. They would be charged with evaluating which of the Commission's original recommendation have been implemented and to what end, and which have failed to be implemented and at what cost.

This past weekend, The Washington Post featured an op-ed by Bruce Hoffman, respected professor of security studies at Georgetown University and a senior fellow at the U.S. Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Center. Hoffman wrote, "(W)hile al-Qaeda is finding new ways to exploit our weaknesses, we are stuck in a pattern of belated responses, rather than anticipating its moves and developing preemptive strategies. The 'systemic failure' of intelligence analysis and airport security that Obama re-

cently described was not just the product of a compartmentalized bureaucracy or analytical inattention, but a failure to recognize al Qaeda's new strategy. The national security architecture built in the aftermath of Sept. 11 addresses yesterday's threats—but not today's and certainly not tomorrow's. It is superb at reacting and responding, but not at outsmarting . . . a new approach to counterterrorism is essential."

Distinct from temporarily bringing back the two 9/11 Commission co-chairs, I also urge the creation of a "Team B." As you may know, historically the phrase "Team B" refers to a group of outside experts, commissioned by the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1970's and headed by Richard Pipes, to analyze the threats posed by the Soviet Union to the United States and counter the positions of intelligence officials within the CIA, known as "Team A." In your remarks last week following the review of the attempted Christmas Day terrorist attack, you rightly referred to our enemy as "nimble." Too often our response to the evolving threat posed by al Qaeda, and others sympathetic to their murderous aims, is anything but.

The Team B concept has been successful in previous administrations when fresh eyes were needed to provide the commander-in-chief with objective information to make informed policy decisions. I believe it can work now, too, and suggest that among the individuals, but not exclusively, whose expertise and forward-thinking would be well-suited to a Team B are: Bruce Hoffman; Andrew McCarthy and Patrick Fitzgerald, both of whom were involved in the prosecution of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman in the first World Trade Center bombings; Fouad Ajami, professor at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University; Jean Bethke Elshtain, professor of social and political ethics at the University of Chicago; economist Judy Shelton, National Endowment for Democracy board member; foreign policy columnist and author Anne Applebaum; Andrew F. Krepinevich Jr., author of *Seven Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century*; Elliot Cohen, professor of Strategic Studies at SAIS; Philip D. Zelikow, diplomat and author who worked as executive director of the 9/11 Commission, and Joshua Muravchik, formerly a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and presently a Foreign Policy Institute fellow at SAIS.

The 9/11 Commission report was issued nearly six years ago. Even if every recommendation had been implemented, which it has not, our enemy has evolved since that time. Our current intelligence infrastructure is at times overwhelmed by data, information and the urgency of daily events, and as such is unable to dedicate the time and resources necessary to think outside the box and better comprehend this multidimensional threat. "Team B" would possess the necessary expertise but would be free from these daily pressures. The team would represent a "new approach to counterterrorism" which focuses not just on connecting the dots of intelligence, but which seeks to stay a step ahead in understanding how to break the radicalization and recruitment cycle that sustains our enemy, how to disrupt their network globally and how to strategically isolate them.

I also believe there is an urgent need to make the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) administrator a long-term position. Since TSA's inception following the 9/11 attacks, there have been six Transportation Security Agency administrators and acting administrators. For a position of this import to turn over with such frequency and to automatically change hands with each new administration simply does not make sense. I am introducing legislation that mirrors the language used to establish a 10-year term and Senate confirmation for FBI directors. I am hopeful that members of both parties will see the merits of this proposal and I urge your support for this change.

America is a great nation facing an enemy unlike any other we have ever known. We must steel ourselves for the struggle ahead, frankly assessing the nature and scope of the threat we face and guarding against partisanship at all costs. The people of this country deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 17, 2010.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
President,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Over the last year, I have written you and members of your administration numerous letters concerning terrorism. In these letters, I have proposed a series of actions that should immediately be taken and that would make the country safer and receive strong bipartisan support. I have compiled these proposals into a single letter for your convenience and urge you to take swift action. The American people are looking for strong bipartisan leadership on matters of national security and I believe these proposals could be an important start.

I believe that these amendments would garner bipartisan support from the American people. The proposals and requests are as follows:

I. BRING BACK 9/11 CO-CHAIRS FOR A REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND UPDATE REPORT

In 1998, I authored language that created the bipartisan National Commission on Terrorism, also known as the Bremer Commission—which released its final report in 2000, tellingly featuring the World Trade Center "Twin Towers" on its cover. The report was ignored by administration and congressional leaders—both Republican and Democrat—until after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Again, in 2005, I authored language creating the Iraq Study Group whose report included the recommendation for the counterinsurgency troop "surge" in its final report. Both of these experiences have been illustrative in how an independent review of complex national security matters can help identify critical gaps and innovative ideas on policy that could strengthen our security.

I have urged the administration to bring back 9/11 Commission co-chairs Lee Hamilton and Thomas Keane for a six-month period to conduct a formal review and 9/11 Commission follow-up. They would be charged with evaluating which of the commission's original recommendations have been implemented and to what end, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

which have failed to be implemented and at what cost.

The 9/11 Commission report was issued nearly six years ago. Even if every recommendation had been implemented, which has not happened, our enemy has evolved since that time. Our current intelligence infrastructure is at times overwhelmed by data, information and the urgency of daily events, and as such is unable to dedicate the time and resources necessary to think outside the box and better comprehend this multidimensional threat.

II. CREATE A "TEAM B" TO BRING "FRESH EYES" TO U.S. COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY

Distinct from temporarily bringing back the two 9/11 Commission co-chairs, I also urge the creation of a "Team B." The Team B concept has been successful in previous administrations when fresh eyes were needed to provide the commander-in-chief with objective information to make informed policy decisions.

"Team B" would possess the necessary expertise but would be free from the daily pressures that federal agencies face. The team would represent a "new approach to counterterrorism" which focuses not just on connecting the dots of intelligence, but which seeks to stay a step ahead in understanding how to break the radicalization and recruitment cycle that sustains our enemy, how to disrupt their network globally and how to strategically isolate them.

I believe it can work now, too, and suggest that among the individuals, but not exclusively, whose expertise and forward-thinking would be well-suited to a Team B are: Bruce Hoffman, professor of security studies at Georgetown University and a senior fellow at the U.S. Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Center; Andrew McCarthy and Patrick Fitzgerald, both of whom were involved in the prosecution of Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman in the first World Trade Center bombings; Fouad Ajami, professor at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University; Jean Bethke Elshtain, professor of social and political ethics at the University of Chicago; economist Judy Shelton, National Endowment for Democracy board member; foreign policy columnist and author Anne Applebaum; Andrew F. Krepinevich Jr., author of "Seven Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century;" Elliot Cohen, professor of Strategic Studies at SAIS; Philip D. Zelikow, diplomat and author who worked as executive director of the 9/11 Commission, and Joshua Muravchik, formerly a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and presently a Foreign Policy Institute fellow at SAIS.

III. MAKE STATUTORY IMPROVEMENTS TO TSA ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 4459, to establish a 10-year term of office for any individual appointed to serve as the administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), akin to the appointment process for the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

I believe a 10-year term for the administrator of TSA will help provide the agency with the qualified, long-term and independent leadership it needs at this time. Since its creation following 9/11, TSA has had six administrators, averaging terms of just 1.5 years. This bill further strengthens our nation's homeland by ensuring stable leadership at the Department of Homeland Security and improving the TSA administrator position to assure agency professionalism over political fidelity.

IV. TRY KHALID SHEIKH MOHAMMED AND OTHER DETAINEES BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS

I have introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 4556, with Sen. Lindsey Graham to pro-

hibit the use of Department of Justice funds for the trial of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his co-conspirators in any community in the U.S. However, it would still allow for a military commission at Guantanamo Bay or on a secure military base inside the U.S. This is a reasonable approach that allows the administration to try these terrorists in an appropriate military commission.

Prior to announcing plans for a New York City trial last November, the Justice Department did not consult with any local leaders, including New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly or Mayor Michael Bloomberg. If it had, there would have been a better understanding of the dangers and cost of this approach. The trial, as planned, is estimated to cost taxpayers at least \$250 million per year—for a total expected cost of more than \$1 billion.

V. MAKE THE HIG OPERATIONAL WITHIN 30 DAYS AND BRIEF CONGRESS ON ITS AUTHORITIES

Following the handling of the interrogation of alleged Christmas Day bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, there has been considerable confusion among agencies as to what their role was, what their role should have been, whether the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) should have been involved, whether the HIG is intended to operate inside the United States, and even whether the HIG exists. There is clearly an urgent need for action and clarification to ensure that future interrogations are conducted properly and effectively.

Toward that end, I urged the administration to formalize a new interrogation plan with relevant agencies, ensure that congressional committees are fully briefed, prepare an addendum to the president's review of the Christmas Day case that deals specifically with the facts concerning Mr. Abdulmutallab's interrogation, and move expeditiously to establish the HIG staff at the National Counterterrorism Center within 30 days.

Last month, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee issued a report, "Al Qaeda in Yemen and Somalia: A Ticking Time Bomb," that is particularly concerning in light of the failed attack on Christmas Day and growing al Qaeda activities in Yemen. The committee reported that, "As many as three dozen U.S. citizens who converted to Islam while in prison have traveled to Yemen, possibly for al Qaeda training. As many as a dozen U.S. citizens who married Muslim women and converted to Islam also have made their way to Yemen . . . Described by one American official as 'blond-haired, blue eyed-types,' these individuals fit a profile of Americans who Al Qaeda has sought to recruit over the past several years." Additionally, the State Department told me that approximately 50,000 American citizens are currently visiting, studying, or living in Yemen currently.

As al Qaeda has changed and adjusted its tactics, so too must the U.S. An outside review of our counterterrorism strategy, combined with an independent review by the 9/11 Commission co-chairs, will ensure that we are revisiting our assumptions, strategy, and programs to fight the al Qaeda of 2010, not the al Qaeda of 2001.

Thank you for your consideration. I believe each of these proposals would receive broad bipartisan support in Congress. I stand ready to assist you in championing these proposals in Congress.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
April 27, 2010.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
President,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Since January, I have repeatedly urged you and senior members of your administration to implement several bipartisan efforts to strengthen our nation's security. To date, these proposals have been dismissed without explanation. It's almost as if any idea that comes from Congress is a bad idea; and if it comes from a Republican it's viewed as a really bad idea. This is unfortunate, given the gravity of our current national security challenges.

I have always sought to work in a bipartisan manner. In 1998, I authored language that created the bipartisan National Commission on Terrorism, also known as the Bremer Commission—which released its final report in 2000, tellingly featuring the World Trade Center "Twin Towers" on its cover. I again authored language in 2005 creating the Iraq Study Group to develop bipartisan solutions to help secure Iraq.

My previous letters urged the administration to create a "Team B" to bring "fresh eyes" to U.S. counterterrorism strategy. The team would represent a "new approach to counterterrorism" which focuses not just on connecting the dots of intelligence, but which seeks to stay a step ahead in understanding how to break the radicalization and recruitment cycle that sustains our enemy, how to disrupt their network globally and how to strategically isolate them.

I want to share the enclosed piece from respected Georgetown University professor Bruce Hoffman, who endorses this approach, saying, "One important yet currently languishing congressional initiative that would help counter this strategy is Representative Frank Wolf's proposal to institutionalize a 'red team' or 'Team B' counterterrorist capability as an essential element of our efforts to combat terrorism and in the war against al-Qaeda."

Can someone from your administration explain to me the continued reluctance to implement such an effort? I believe the "Team B" effort would receive strong bipartisan support.

I was disappointed that the administration failed to adopt the other proposals in my previous letters, including bringing back the co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission—Lee Hamilton and Thomas Kean—for a six-month period to evaluate what progress has been made since the commission released its report. I spoke with former Congressman Lee Hamilton and he agreed that this was a good idea. To date, I have seen no effort by the administration on this front.

I also urged the administration to support legislation to establish a more professional and independent administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), by setting a 10-year term, akin to the appointment process for the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). After two withdrawn nominations, I have seen no effort by the administration to consider this—and the position remains vacant.

Additionally, I have urged the administration to collocate the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) at the National Counterterrorism Center to facilitate information sharing and cooperation among intelligence agencies. Again, I have seen no effort by the administration to do so.

I urge you to move quickly to establish a "Team B" and appoint America's best and brightest counterterrorism strategists to serve on it. I stand ready to assist you in this important effort.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HONORING YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES, INC. FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Youth Enrichment Services, Inc.

YES has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless acts of those involved with YES are admirable.

I am proud to honor Youth Enrichment Services, Inc. for their extraordinary work in the community.

IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT FOR PERFORMANCE AND RELATED REFORMS TO OBTAIN VALUE IN EVERY ACQUISITION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5013) to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for performance management of the defense acquisition system, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5013—the IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010. I thank my good friends and colleagues Congressman ROB ANDREWS and Armed Services Committee Chairman, IKE SKELTON, for continuing the good work the Committee did last year to reform the defense acquisition process. Importantly, the bipartisan IMPROVE Acquisition Act will save taxpayers \$27 billion each year.

H.R. 5013 will, among other things, update the system by which the Department of Defense acquires weapons systems, commercial goods, and services. Over the past 20 years, the Defense Department has shifted its primary purchases from weapons systems to services. To reign in the costs associated with this outdated system and ensure the warfighter's needs are met, the committee has written a comprehensive bill that provides for better management of the acquisition system, reform of the requirements process upon which the acquisition process depends, a more professional acquisition workforce, more effective financial management, and improvements in outreach to the industrial base so that the government is getting the best quality at the lowest price.

In particular, Title IV of the IMPROVE Act has several important provisions to Michigan's

15th District and cleaning up the abuses of government contractors. First, it develops measures to utilize more of the defense industrial base in order to reach small- and mid-size businesses. I am fully supportive of this provision. As a personal note, Mr. Chair, I hear from companies throughout Michigan's 15th Congressional District with innovative technologies and ideas, companies that have been working on cutting edge research and development in association with our Michigan Universities but which have not developed the necessary relationships with the Department to successfully sell the Department their products, services and ideas. This section will help link the Department to these smaller companies by identifying and communicating with non-traditional suppliers using tools and resources available within the federal government and in the private sector.

Second, this Title reinforces a major priority for the Obama Administration by requiring a contractor to disclose whether it has outstanding tax debt when it is bidding on a new contract. Like many Members of Congress, I have been disillusioned by the scandals and abuse perpetrated by government contractors. Not only have some of these bad actors cost American and foreign lives, but they have also been a heavy burden to taxpayers. I support measures in this Title to ensure the government is contracting with responsible, high-quality suppliers. Moreover, this section gives the government better enforcement mechanisms by providing contracting officers new statutory authority to verify with the Treasury Department that the contractors under review are being forthcoming in their applications with respect to their tax status.

Finally, Title IV creates a new, independent oversight authority over the Department's contracting system. It provides for an independent General Counsel within the Defense Contract Audit Agency to carry out reviews of contractor business systems. This provision will also help to save taxpayers money in the long run, ensure effective services are provided to the Department, and ultimately protect the warfighter and the American people.

Mr. Chair, the IMPROVE Acquisition Act contains many important provisions deserving of the House's full consideration. I am pleased to support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAVID JAMES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a pioneer and American hero—Mr. David James, a constituent of mine from Winnetka. Born in the 1920s, Mr. James' family moved from St. Louis to Chicago's South Side. Soon after the start of World War II, Mr. James enlisted in the Army Air Corps in October 1942 and joined the "Tuskegee Airmen," our nation's first African-American military aircrews. He joined nearly 1,000 other airmen who broke barriers and fought for their nation. Mr. James served his country with distinction as a pilot.

After his military discharge, Mr. James graduated from law school and became the first

African-American attorney to work for the American Bar Association. He moved to Winnetka in part because of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech at the Winnetka Village Green in 1965, and lived there for nearly 40 years.

His service, both in the military and his efforts to promote civil rights, serves as an inspiration to future generations. I am honored to represent him in the Congress and I wish him and his family all the best.

HONORING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF LONG ISLAND FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Community Development Corporation of Long Island.

CDC has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. CDC's continuous acts of selfless efforts are admirable.

I am proud to honor Community Development Corporation of Long Island for their extraordinary work in the community.

HONORING ZANE ERIC CLARK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zane Eric Clark, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 87, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zane has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zane has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zane Eric Clark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING DR. ADRIANA SELVAGGIO

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Adriana Selvaggio. A devoted mother and renowned physician, Dr. Selvaggio has committed the majority of her adult life to serving others.