Exhibit A

Law Office
John H. Clarke
1629 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 332-3030
JohnHClarke@earthlink.net

Also Admitted in Virginia
and Maryland

FAX: (202) 332-3030
CELL: (202) 344-0776

February 21, 2014

By Certified Mail — Return receipt Requested
Article Number 7010 3090 0000 0316 6499

FOIA REQUEST

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Record/Information Dissemination Section
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a request for production of records under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC § 552, the "FOIA."

FOIA Requesters. I write on behalf of my clients, Accuracy in Media, Inc., a District of Columbia 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, as well as the following seven individuals, all of whom serve as members of the "Citizens' Commission on Benghazi," an unincorporated, informal association of individuals, all working with Accuracy in Media. They are (1) Roger Aronoff, (2) Larry Bailey, (3) Kenneth Benway, (4) Dick Brauer, (4) Clare Lopez, (5) James A. Lyons, Jr., (5) Kevin Shipp, and (7) Wayne Simmons.

FOIA Requests. These requests are for the following records of activities in Libya, in the care, custody or control of the FBI, regardless of the source of the records:

1 0 MAR 2014

1. All records describing or defining the purpose, scope, jurisdiction, and power of the FBI's investigation into the Benghazi attacks, including the identity of government official(s) requesting or ordering the probe.

2. All records of the Bureau's findings in its investigation into the Benghazi attacks. Responsive records include those that regard (1) the identities of any non-US personnel questioned, interrogated, detained, or transported through, the Annex, (2) weapons brought into, and removed from, the Annex, as well as such weaponry's destinations including whether abandoned on September 12, 2012, (3) communication and cryptographic equipment left in the Consulate and Annex when US personnel abandoned the facilities on September 12, 2012, and (4) any probe into the meetings from January 2007 through September 2012 between Tripoli Embassy officials, including Christopher Stevens, and the individuals identified in the following Request 3 below.

3. All notes, memoranda, and correspondence generated between January of 2007 and September 11, 2012, regarding meetings between Christopher Stevens or any other Tripoli Embassy official, and one or more of the following individuals:
   - **Ahmed Abu Khattala**, a commander of the Libyan Ansar al-Shariah militia group
   - **Mustafa Abdul Jalil**, Chairman of the Libyan National Transitional Council from 5 March 2011-8 August 2012
   - **Mahmoud Jibril**, Interim Prime Minister of Libya and Chair of the Executive Board of the National Transitional Council from 5\ March-23 October 2011
   - **Wissam bin Hamid**, a Libya Shield Brigade commander, supporter of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood Justice & Construction Party, and veteran jihad fighter of Iraq & Afghanistan, who provided security for US representatives in Benghazi and was tentatively identified by the Library of Congress as the head of al-Qa'eda in Libya
   - **Abdelhakim Belhadj** (aka Abdallah al Sadeq), veteran jihad fighter of Iraq & Afghanistan, commander of the AQ franchise militia, Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) (aka Libyan Islamic Movement for Change), post-revolution military commander of Tripoli, and Libyan delegation leader to the Syrian Free Army in late 2011
   - **Ismael al-Sallabi** (brother of Ali), commander of the Al-Qa'eda-linked al-Sahati Brigade during the revolution, and Benghazi Military Council commander afterwards, close ally of Abdelhakim Belhadj and Mustafa Jalil

- **Ali al-Sallabi** (brother of Ismael), called the 'spiritual leader' of the Libyan revolution, Muslim Brotherhood links, led effort with Seif al-Qaddafi and US Embassy Tripoli to gain release of jihadi detainees from Libyan jails
- **Mohammad al-Sallabi**, father of Ali and Ismael, among the founders of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood in the 1960s
- **Abu Sufian bin Qumu**, veteran jihad fighter in Afghanistan from Derna, Libya, captured in 2001, detained at GITMO, sent back to Libyan jail, released in 2010, led jihad vs Qaddafi in 2011, and led Benghazi Mission attack in Sep 2012.

4. Any other records of whatsoever nature regarding (1) the Benghazi consulate and (2) its CIA Annex, for the time period of January 1st, 2011, through September 30th, 2012. This request is all-inclusive for all records, however recorded, including emails, reports, memoranda, correspondence, teletypes, telephone calls, text messages, and audio and video recordings, regarding all uses of the Benghazi consulate and CIA Annex.

5. All records generated between September 11, 2012 and the present, by survivors of the September 11th and 12th attacks on the Benghazi mission and the Benghazi CIA Annex, or by any person regarding the survivors' accounts of the attack.

6. All calendars, day books, journals, notes, memoranda, or other records reflecting Ambassador Stevens' schedule on September 11, 2012, including the Ambassador's diary, and all correspondence to or from the Ambassador regarding his meetings that day, including with the Turkish Consul General.

7. All records of the purpose of Ambassador Stevens' meetings on September 11, 2012, including analysis or assessments of those meetings, whether written before or after September 11, 2012.

8. September 15th or 16th FBI 302 Interview Reports, and corresponding handwritten notes, of interviews conducted in Germany of United States personnel who had been in the Benghazi mission and the Benghazi CIA annex during the September 11th and 12th attacks on those facilities.

Speaker Boehner: Form a Select Committee on Benghazi," "Further Proof That Obama Knew the Truth About Benghazi," "Blaming the Victim in Benghazigate," "Obama and His Media Loyalists Still Spinning Benghazi," and "Does Navy Map Alter the Benghazi Narrative?"

Additionally, several of the individual requesters have published articles about the matter, demonstrating, *inter alia*, the background, experience, and expertise of the FOIA requesters in the subject area of the requests. See, for examples, "Navy SEAL: 'There's guilt in this administration,'" by Captain Larry Bailey, published in WND.com in April of 2013; two articles by Clare Lopez appearing in Pundicity.com in October of 2012, "Benghazi: The Set-Up and the Cover-Up," and "Did Turkey Play a Role in Benghazi Attack?;" and Admiral James Lyons' pieces appearing in the Washington Times, "Obama's Chain of Command Unravels Over Benghazi (October 2012), "Obama needs to come clean on what happened in Benghazi" (October 2012), "The Key Benghazi Questions Still Unanswered" (January 2013), "A hard slog to get Benghazi answers" (January 2013), and "A call to Courage over Benghazi" (May 2013).

AIM, as well as the individual FOIA requesters, intend to use the requested information in scholarly or other analytic work, for dissemination. Neither AIM nor the individuals identified above have any "commercial interest" that would be furthered by the disclosure of the requested information, as that term has been interpreted by the courts under 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(II).

Public Interest Fee Waiver. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) provides that "[d]ocuments shall be furnished without any charge or at a charge reduced… if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."

Here, the FOIA requesters do not have a commercial interest in the disclosure. Their purpose is to inform the public. The subject of the requested records concerns the operations or activities of the United States Government. The information sought is directed at finding out what information the government has about its failure to timely respond when its facilities came under attack. These FOIA Requests also concern what information the government did not provide to the public, as well as congressional investigators.

9. Records of the video teleconference on the afternoon of the September 16th, 2012, between the FBI and other IC officials in Washington, regarding FBI interviews with U.S. personnel who had been on the compounds in Benghazi during the attack. For your reference, the following is an excerpt from the December 30, 2012, Senate Committee On Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs, "Flashing Red: A Special Report On The Terrorist Attack At Benghazi:"

> On September 15th and 16th, officials from the FBI conducted face-to-face interviews in Germany of the U.S. personnel who had been on the compound in Benghazi during the attack. The U.S. personnel who were interviewed saw no indications that there had been a protest prior to the attack. Information from those interviews was shared on a secure video teleconference on the afternoon of the 16th with FBI and other IC officials in Washington; it is unclear whether the question of whether a protest took place was discussed during this video conference.

10. Complete Autopsy Reports of each of the victims of the September 11th and 12th, 2012, Benghazi attacks of the Ambassador's compound, and the CIA Annex.

Electronic Format. Kindly produce these records in electronic format. *See* e-FOIA amendment 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(3)(B), as amended, requiring Agency to "provide the record in any form or format requested . . . if the record is readily reproducible by the agency in that form or format." *See generally* FOIA Update Vol. XVII, No. 4, 1996.

Request for Waiver of Search and Review Fees. As a representatives of the news media, Accuracy in Media, Inc. ("AIM"), submits that it is entitled to a waiver of any fees associated with the search and review of records responsive to these FOIA Requests, under 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). AIM is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public.

Upon disclosure of the records sought, AIM has concrete plans to make the information public. Its ability and intent to disseminate the information requested, is beyond question. Accuracy in Media Articles on the subject include "The MSM and Benghazi: Will Their Coverage Harm Obama Administration?," "Shameful Media Coverage of Benghazi Scandal and Cover-up," "Media Embrace Obama's Controversial Picks for National Security Team," "New York Times Attempts to Blur Benghazi Scandal," "McClatchy Reporter Changes Tune on Benghazi," "CBS in Damage Control Over Error-Filled Benghazi Report," "'60 Minutes' Reveals Little New in Benghazi Exposé," "The Left's Continued Assault on the Truth About Benghazi," "Media Coverage of Benghazi Leans Toward Political Theater," "Conservative Leaders Call on

Upon disclosure of the records sought, AIM, as well as other several of the individual requesters, has concrete plans to make the information public, in accordance with AIM's news dissemination function. The information sought would be likely to contribute to an understanding of United States Government operations or activities, and disclosure will enhance public understanding of the Benghazi incident as compared with awareness prior to the disclosure. The interest of enhancing the public's understanding of the operations or activities of the U.S. Government is clear, and the records' connection to these government activities is direct.

Release of the information will contribute to an understanding of government operations or activities regarding the Benghazi issue, as compared with awareness prior to the disclosure. Thus, the requesters provide an adequate showing of their concrete plans to disseminate the requested information, and adequately demonstrate how disclosure of the requested documents meets the requirements for a public interest fee waiver.

Reply to Accuracy in Media. If you have any questions about handling this request, please ask via email, to JohnHClarke@earthlink.net. Otherwise, kindly respond, and produce records, to Accuracy in Media, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 555, Bethesda, MD 20814-4582.

Sincerely,

John H. Clarke

cc: Accuracy in Media, Inc.
Roger Aronoff
Larry Bailey
Kenneth Benway
Dick Brauer
Clare Lopez
James A. Lyons, Jr.
Kevin Shipp
Wayne Simmons

Exhibit B

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

March 14, 2014

MR. JOHN H. CLARKE / LAW OFFICE OF JOHN H. CLARKE
SUITE 300
1629 K STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

FOIPA Request No.: 1256410-000
Subject: ARONOFF, ROGER ET AL
(CITIZENS' COMMISION ON BENGHAZI)

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the FBI. The FOIPA number listed above has been assigned to your request.

You have requested records concerning one or more third party individuals. Because you have requested information about a third party and the FBI recognizes an important privacy interest in that information, to help us process your request we ask that you provide one of the following: (1) an authorization and consent from the individual(s) (*i.e.*, express authorization and consent of the third party); (2) proof of death (*i.e.*, proof that your subject is deceased); or (3) a justification that the public interest in disclosure outweighs personal privacy (*i.e.*, a clear demonstration that the public interest in disclosure outweighs personal privacy interests). In the absence of such information, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any records responsive to your request, which, if they were to exist, would be exempt from disclosure pursuant to FOIA Exemptions (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C).

Express authorization and consent. If you seek disclosure of any existing records on this basis, enclosed is a Certification of Identity form. You may make additional copies of this form if you are requesting information on more than one individual. The subject of your request should complete this form and then sign it. Alternatively, the subject may prepare a document containing the required descriptive data and have it notarized. The original certification of identity or notarized authorization with the descriptive information must contain a legible, original signature before FBI can conduct an accurate search of our records.

Proof of death. If you seek disclosure of any existing records on this basis, proof of death can be a copy of a death certificate, Social Security Death Index, obituary, or another recognized reference source. Death is presumed if the birth date of the subject is more than 100 years ago.

Public Interest Disclosure. If you seek disclosure of any existing records on this basis, you must demonstrate that the public interest in disclosure outweighs personal privacy interests. In this regard, you must show that the public interest sought is a significant one, and that the requested information is likely to advance that interest.

Fax your request to the Work Process Unit at (540) 868-4997, or mail to 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602. If we do not receive a response from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, your request will be closed. You must include the FOIPA request number with any communication regarding this matter.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). As such, this response is limited to those records, if any exist, that are subject to the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's eFOIA portal at http://www.justice.gov/oip/efoia-portal.html. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in any correspondence to us for proper identification of your request.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the FBI Fact Sheet and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

Sincerely,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

FBI FACT SHEET

- **The primary functions of the FBI are national security and law enforcement.**
- **The FBI does not keep a file on every citizen of the United States.**
- **The FBI was not established until 1908 and we have very few records prior to the 1920s.**
- **FBI files generally contain reports** of FBI investigations of a wide range of matters, including counterterrorism, counter-intelligence, cyber crime, public corruption, civil rights, organized crime, white collar crime, major thefts, violent crime, and applicants.
- **The FBI does not issue clearances or non-clearances for anyone other than its own personnel or persons having access to FBI facilities.** Background investigations for security clearances are conducted by many different Government agencies. Persons who received a clearance while in the military or employed with some other government agency should contact that entity. Most government agencies have websites which are accessible on the internet which have their contact information.
- **A criminal history summary check or "rap sheet" is NOT the same as an "FBI file."** It is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and related documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, Record Request, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306. Along with a specific written request, the individual must submit a new full set of his/her fingerprints in order to locate the record, establish positive identification, and ensure that an individual's records are not disseminated to an unauthorized person. The fingerprint submission must include the subject's name, date and place of birth. There is a required fee of $18 for this service, which must be submitted by money order or certified check made payable to the Treasury of the United States. A credit card payment option is also available. Forms for this option and additional directions may be obtained by accessing the FBI Web site at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/background_checks.
- **The National Name Check Program (NNCP)** conducts a search of the FBI's Universal Index (UNI) to identify any information contained in FBI records that may be associated with an individual and provides the results of that search to a requesting federal, state or local agency. Names are searched in a multitude of combinations and phonetic spellings to ensure all records are located. The NNCP also searches for both "main" and "cross reference" files. A main file is an entry that carries the name corresponding to the subject of a file, while a cross reference is merely a mention of an individual contained in a file. The results from a search of this magnitude can result in several "hits" and "idents" on an individual. In each instance where UNI has identified a name variation or reference, information must be reviewed to determine if it is applicable to the individual in question.
- **The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS)** searches for records and provides copies of FBI files responsive to Freedom of Information or Privacy Act (FOIPA) requests for information. RIDS provides responsive documents to requesters seeking "reasonably described information." For a FOIPA search, the subject's name, event, activity, or business is searched to determine whether there is an associated investigative file. This is called a "main file search" and differs from the **NNCP** search.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FBI, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.fbi.gov

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

(b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;

(b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;

(b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;

(b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

(d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;

(j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;

(k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;

(k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;

(k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service he release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;

(k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

U.S Department of Justice

Certification of Identity

FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 1103-0016
EXPIRES 10/31/13

Privacy Act Statement. In accordance with 28 CFR Section 16.41(d) personal data sufficient to identify the individuals submitting requests by mail under the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 552a, is required. The purpose of this solicitation is to ensure that the records of individuals who are the subject of U.S. Department of Justice systems of records are not wrongfully disclosed by the Department. Requests will not be processed if this information is not furnished. False information on this form may subject the requester to criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and/or 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(i)(3).

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Suggestions for reducing this burden may be submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Public Use Reports Project (1103-0016), Washington, DC 20503.

Full Name of Requester [1] _____

Citizenship Status [2] _____ Social Security Number [3] _____

Current Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am the person named above, and I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 by a fine of not more than $10,000 or by imprisonment of not more than five years or both, and that requesting or obtaining any record(s) under false pretenses is punishable under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3) by a fine of not more than $5,000.

Signature [4] _____ **Date** _____

OPTIONAL: Authorization to Release Information to Another Person

This form is also to be completed by a requester who is authorizing information relating to himself or herself to be released to another person.

Further, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(b), I authorize the U.S. Department of Justice to release any and all information relating to me to:

_____

Print or Type Name

[1] Name of individual who is the subject of the record(s) sought.

[2] Individual submitting a request under the Privacy Act of 1974 must be either "a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(a)(2). Requests will be processed as Freedom of Information Act requests pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552, rather than Privacy Act requests, for individuals who are not United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

[3] Providing your social security number is voluntary. You are asked to provide your social security number only to facilitate the identification of records relating to you. Without your social security number, the Department may be unable to locate any or all records pertaining to you.

[4] Signature of individual who is the subject of the record sought.

FORM DOJ-361

Exhibit C

FOIA
A
FBI

Law Office
John H. Clarke
1629 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 332-3030
JohnHClarke@earthlink.net

Also Admitted in Virginia
and Maryland

FAX: (202) 332-3030
CELL: (202) 344-0776

March 31, 2014

FOIA APPEAL
David Hardy, Director
Office of Information Policy (OIP)
U.S. Department of Justice
1425 New York Ave., NW
Suite 11050
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

RECEIVED
APR 07 2014
Office of Information Policy

Re: FOIA Request No.: 1256410-000

Dear Mr. Hardy:

This is an appeal of the FBI's March 14, 2014 denial of the captioned FOIA request. The Bureau responded that it would "neither confirm nor deny the existence of any records responsive to your request," in the absence of "express authorization and consent" by third parties, or proof of death, or, alternatively, a demonstration that the public interest in disclosure outweighs personal privacy interests. However, withholdings under FOIA Exemptions (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C) cannot justify the FBI's blanket denial.

Request 1, seeking records of the FBI's jurisdiction in its Benghazi probe and the identity of government officials ordering the probe, implicates no personal privacy interests.

Any privacy interests that would be affected by release of records sought in Requests 2 and 3, for the Bureau's findings in its investigation, could be vitiated by redacting names. The FOIA requires agencies to release non-exempt information, segregated from exempt material. Records of the meetings between Christopher Stevens, who is deceased, and the individuals identified, could be avoided by segregating the records. Nor should the FBI protect the privacy interests of any non-US personnel detained at the CIA Annex. Also, Request 2's "communication and cryptographic equipment left in the Consulate and Annex when US personnel abandoned the facilities" cannot be withheld on privacy grounds.

Similarly, privacy interests implicated by release of records of the Benghazi facilities, under Request 4, would be avoided by redactions. So too for the personal privacy of the survivors, in the records sought by Requests 5 and 8. Records reflecting Ambassador Stevens' schedule on September 11, 2012, and the substance of his meetings that day, sought in Requests 6 and 7, do not implicate personal privacy interests. And senior government officials who participated in the video teleconference on September 16th, 2012, the subject of Request 9, have little, if any, cognizable personal privacy interests in non-disclosure.

Insofar as the request for complete autopsy reports of the victims of the September 11th and 12th, 2012 Benghazi attacks, the subject of Request 10, we agree that personal privacy interests justifies their non-disclosure, at least in the absence of a release by the primary next-of-kin. However, these FOIA requests seek to reveal, among other things, whether the FBI is conducting a thorough investigation. Thus, whether this murder probe includes any review of the autopsy reports should be disclosed, and almost any response, even one withholding the reports, would suffice.

In sum, there are no personal privacy interests in the records sought that could not be protected by proper redaction and segregation, and the absence of any third-party releases does not justify the FBI's blanket withholding.

Moreover, the public interest in disclosure outweighs any cognizable personal privacy interests that may otherwise justify non-disclosure. The Benghazi tragedy and its aftermath is subject of numerous congressional probes and widespread, ongoing, publicity. The information sought is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and its inner workings. Disclosure will show the degree to which the Executive Branch has complied in good faith with relevant law, and whether it accurately informed Congress and the public about the Benghazi tragedy.

Kindly produce the records, to Accuracy in Media, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 555, Bethesda, MD 20814-4582.

Sincerely,

John H. Clarke

cc: Accuracy in Media, Inc.
Roger Aronoff
Larry Bailey
Kenneth Benway
Dick Brauer
Clare Lopez
James A. Lyons, Jr.
Kevin Shipp
Wayne Simmons

Exhibit D

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Information Policy

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 11, 2014

John H. Clarke, Esq.
Suite 300
1629 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
JohnHClarke@earthlink.net

Re: Request No. 1256410

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This is to advise you that your administrative appeal from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was received by this Office on April 7, 2014.

The Office of Information Policy has the responsibility of adjudicating such appeals. In an attempt to afford each appellant equal and impartial treatment, we have adopted a general practice of assigning appeals in the approximate order of receipt. Your appeal has been assigned number **AP-2014-02409**. Please mention this number in any future correspondence to this Office regarding this matter. Please note that if you provide an e-mail address or another electronic means of communication with your appeal, this Office may respond to your appeal electronically even if you submitted your appeal to this Office via regular U.S. Mail.

We will notify you of the decision on your appeal as soon as we can. If you have any questions about the status of your appeal, you may contact me at the number above. If you have submitted your appeal through this Office's online electronic appeal portal, you may also obtain an update on the status of your appeal by logging into your portal account.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Jones
Supervisory Administrative Specialist

Exhibit E

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

July 8, 2014

John H. Clarke, Esq.
Suite 300
1629 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
JohnHClarke@earthlink.net

Re: Appeal No. AP-2014-02409
Request No. 1256410
ADW:CDT

VIA: E-mail

Dear Mr. Clarke:

You appealed on behalf of your clients, Accuracy in Media, Inc. and other individuals, from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your clients' request for access to records concerning certain activities in Libya.

After carefully considering your appeal, and as a result of discussions between FBI personnel and this Office, I am remanding your clients' request for a search for responsive records. If the FBI locates releasable records, it will send them to you directly, subject to any applicable fees. You may appeal any future adverse determination made by the FBI. If you would like to inquire about the status of this remand, please contact the FBI directly.

If your clients are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the Freedom of Information Act permits them to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(B).

Sincerely,

Sean R. O'Neill
Chief
Administrative Appeals Staff

By: Anne D. Work

Anne D. Work
Senior Counsel
Administrative Appeals Staff

Exhibit F

Law Office
John H. Clarke
1629 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

(202) 332-3030

JohnHClarke@earthlink.net

Also Admitted in Virginia
and Maryland

FAX: (202) 332-3030
CELL: (202) 344-0776

July 10, 2014

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Record/Information Dissemination Section
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

Re: February 21, 2014 FOIA request
Request No. 1256410-000
Expedited processing and fee waivers
March 31, 2014 administrative appeal, remanded July 8
Appeal No. AP-2014-02409

Dear FOIA Officer:

This letter is submitted in support of prayers for fee waivers and expedited processing for the captioned request. This letter was submitted on July 7 for inclusion in the record on appeal, but, on July 9, I received a letter by email that the case had been remanded on July 8. The FOIA requesters are a group of eight private citizens, joined by a news media organization, Accuracy in Media, Inc., or "AIM." The individuals are a group of highly accomplished former military and Central Intelligence Agency personnel, all of whom are students of the Benghazi tragedy, and all of whom are members of an informal association, the Citizens' Commission on Benghazi, or "CCB" or "Commission." The CCB is a group of concerned Americans working with AIM to unearth and disseminate the truth of the Benghazi tragedy. AIM hosts a page devoted to the CCB on its website, http://www.aim.org/benghazi/.

Benghazi siege. On Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 6:43 a.m. local time, just after sunrise in Benghazi, a private, unarmed security guard on duty at the State Department's Special Mission Compound, a 13-acre walled facility ("the Mission"), noticed a Libyan policeman on the roof of a building across the street, taking photographs, and talking into a cell phone. The policeman photographer had arrived in an official police vehicle, and was part of a police unit whose job supposedly included protecting the Mission. From his vantage, he could see and photograph all four of the Mission's buildings. After being spotted, he joined two other men in a car that then drove away. It was reconnaissance, and a bad omen.

That evening, at 9:02 p.m. a Toyota Hilux "gun truck," bearing the black banner of a local militia, Ansar Al Sharia, drove up to the main gate of the Mission, parked, and turned off its lights. In the next half hour, other gun trucks arrived. Around 9:30 p.m., a dozen or so armed men jumped out and began milling around outside the compound's gated main entrance. Seven Libyan guards, three of whom were armed, protected that entrance. At the time, the Mission housed seven Americans.

The siege began abruptly, at 9:42 p.m. Dozens of attackers, armed with assault rifles and anti-tank rocket-propelled-grenades, swarmed the main gate, and at least one other, and overcame all security. Several guards ran away. One attacker shouted, "We're here to kill Americans, not Libyans."

Attackers lobbed a grenade into the militia's command post and fired AK-47's into the main doorway. Within minutes, Ambassador Chris Stevens called the Deputy Chief of Mission in Tripoli, Greg Hicks, and barked, "Greg, we're under attack," whereupon the phone went dead. Stevens' last words in his diary entry of that evening had been, "Never ending security threats." Hicks called the CIA Chief of base (COB) at the Benghazi "CIA Annex," the CIA facility about a mile away, to ask whether the COB had dispatched reinforcements to evacuate the Mission, in accordance with the emergency plan in place, called a "REACT" plan. The COB replied that he was mobilizing reinforcements, but that they were not yet en route.

After giving up trying to break through the steel door protecting a safe area inside the residence, at 10:07 p.m. the attackers set buildings on fire, including the one with the REACT plan's "safe room," where Ambassador Stevens had taken refuge with State Department Regional Security Officer Scott Wickland, as well as Sean Smith, the Ambassador's Information Management Officer.

Using cans of diesel fuel that had been on hand to power a new generator, the attackers ignited parked cars, and soaked the furniture in the residence. When ignited, the furniture gave off thick noxious fumes that poured through the steel-reinforced security gate, choking Smith, Wickland, and Stevens. They likely recognized that the fire would kill them if they did not escape.

Sean Smith was a thirty-four year old computer specialist and former Air Force Sergeant, in Benghazi on temporary duty, providing IT services at the Mission. Sean had been online when the violence began. His last known words were "F—k, gunfire." Earlier that day, Smith had ended an email, "Assuming we don't die tonight. We saw one of our 'police' that guard the compound taking pictures." His last minutes were probably spent destroying cryptographic equipment and other sensitive materials. Whatever he didn't destroy likely fell into enemy hands.

Minutes after the attack began, a cable had come into the CIA Annex, notifying personnel there that 30 or more terrorists were attacking the Mission. It was clearly a disciplined, military style assault. The CIA Annex was staffed with a Quick Reaction Force (QRF), whose mission was to support, or rescue, CIA "assets" in Benghazi.

The CIA Annex force included members of the Libyan "February 17th Martyrs Brigade" militia, an ostensibly friendly armed force that had been contracted by the State Department to augment security at the Mission. The head of this militia was Fawzi Abu Kataf, a Libyan with close links to the Muslim Brotherhood.

At 10:07 p.m., Tyrone Woods and a seven-man QRF, plus a translator, left the CIA Annex, in two armored SUVs, at high speed, bound for the Mission, even after being denied permission to leave three times by the CIA Chief-of-Base. Ty Woods did not ask permission a fourth time. Woods was a member of the Global Response Staff (GRS), CIA-contracted personnel providing protection. Many GRS are former top-tier Nay SEALs or Army Special Forces. Woods was a forty-one year old, had been a Navy SEAL for twenty years, and had served multiple tours of duty in Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

An earlier departure by Woods and his team may have saved Chris Stevens and Sean Smith, according to one estimate. But the CIA Chief wanted to first recruit Libyans to help in the response, even while retaining sufficient forces at the CIA Annex to defend it from any attack. That concern was well-founded: The Annex would later suffer from probing attacks and, finally, a highly sophisticated, accurate, deadly mortar assault.

Chris Stevens used Scott Wickland's cell phone to make desperate calls to the embassy in Tripoli, and probably to local consulates and the February 17th Martyrs Brigade, pleading for help. Minutes before the CIA Annex team arrived at the Mission, Wickland tried to lead Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith out of the burning building, but was separated from them in the thick, noxious smoke. While repeatedly trying to find Stevens and Smith, Wickland was nearly overcome by smoke and fumes. The CIA Annex team, now numbering ten after adding three Libyan militiamen, finally arrived at the Mission, at 10:25. They were met with gunfire. After an intense 15-minute firefight, at 10:40, the team entered the Mission.

The CIA Annex force immediately joined Mission staff, and, in less than five minutes, the group found Sean Smith, dead, but could not find Chris Stevens, even after repeatedly searching the burning building. By 10:45 p.m., this first attack had subsided. But, shortly after 11:00, as the number of attackers grew rapidly, they regrouped and initiated another attack against the now 14 defenders—six GRS

shooters, five Diplomatic Security Agents, and the three Libyan militiamen. The GRS snipers and DS agents, shooting from behind sandbags, picked off a number of attackers, at a distance of about 400 feet.

At 11:10, an unarmed MQ-1 Predator reconnaissance drone, which had been diverted by Africa Command from Derna, Libya, arrived over the Mission, providing control agencies worldwide "eyes" on the attacks, in real time.

After 15 minutes of constant shooting, running low on ammunition, and with the attacking force still growing in number, the Americans decided to make a break for it, to flee to the CIA Annex. They gathered the survivors, Sean Smith's body, and finally departed the Mission around 11:15, in three armored SUVs. Ambassador Stevens was still missing. Exhausted and suffering from acute smoke inhalation and cyanide poisoning from the petroleum-based fire, one of the RSOs, David Ubben, made a wrong turn, and his vehicle came under heavy fire. The group fled to the CIA Annex, arriving around 11:35 p.m., via a circuitous route, with two cars of heavily armed attackers in hot pursuit.

The assault renewed at 11:55, now targeting the CIA Annex. It began with Rocket Propelled Grenades hitting the perimeter wall. That was followed by another intense firefight, during which time Tyrone Woods and his team killed over 60 attackers, maybe as many as 100. Multiple command and control agencies worldwide watched events unfold in real time, via the reconnaissance drone directly overhead.

Meanwhile, in Tripoli, just a few minutes after midnight, GRS agent and former SEAL Glen Doherty and his seven-man Tripoli Task Force team—two military Active Duty Special Operations "shooters" and five other GRS personnel—took off from Tripoli in a Libyan C-130 and landed at Benghazi's Benina Airport at approximately 1:15 a.m. Glen Anthony Doherty, 42, had joined the Navy in 1995. He was a paramedic, and sniper, in SEAL Team THREE, and served two combat tours in Iraq. In 2005 Glen left the SEALs to serve as a contractor providing security for the US intelligence community in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and, finally, in Tripoli.

At 1:00 a.m., Libyan "casuals" brought Ambassador Stevens' body to the Benghazi Medical Center, which may have been under the control of Ansar Al Sharia. (The "casuals" were young unarmed men dressed in T-shirts and designer jeans, not militiamen.) At 2:00 a.m., a call was received from Libyan physician Dr. Abu Zeid, that he had an "unresponsive male" that matched Chris Stevens' description. Dr. Zeid reported that he had worked on the Ambassador for 45 minutes, but that he had died apparently from the effects of inhaling smoke and carbon monoxide.

The various competing militias that controlled Benghazi's Benina Airport delayed Glen Doherty and his team for over three hours. The militias argued among themselves about which militias would assist, as well as logistics, such as which militias would provide the transportation, who would serve as escorts, and which vehicle would lead. They also argued over payment.

After the delay, Glen Doherty and his team finally departed the airfield, at 4:30 a.m., and arrived at the CIA Annex at 5:00 a.m. By that time, Annex personnel were well along destroying computer hard drives, cryptographic equipment, and classified files. Doherty and his team took up defensive positions, guarding over 30 American personnel at the Annex. Between 5:15 and 5:30, the attackers fired 82-mm Soviet-produced mortars, from 800 to 1,000 yards from the Annex. This weapon, which fires seven-pound shells through a 120-pound tube, requires a highly trained crew of four-to-six men to operate. The attackers employed military tactics and techniques, including hand signals that enabled them to maneuver in silence. They were highly trained, obviously.

Aimed with the use of a hidden spotter providing corrections, the attackers fired three "registration" rounds, to adjust the aim, each of which hit the CIA Annex grounds. One of the defenders on the Annex roof shouted "Incoming" when he heard the distinctive pop of a mortar round being fired. The fourth round hit the roof of the building precisely where Tyrone Woods was defending with an automatic weapon, killing him instantly. A fifth round hit the roof close to Glen Doherty, also instantly killing him. Shrapnel from one of rounds hit DS agent David Ubben as he was getting off the ladder to join Woods and Doherty, nearly severing one of his legs. Ubben would remain an inpatient at Walter Reed Army Hospital for over a year.

With sunrise, the assailants lost the tactical advantage of darkness, and the attack ended. Fleeing the CIA Annex at 6:15 a.m., 32 CIA and State Department survivors, with four American casualties, drove to Benina Airport, and departed at 7:30 a.m., bound for Tripoli on a C-130 transport aircraft.

When the Benghazi facilities were attacked, a 130-man Marine Force Reconnaissance was stationed in Sigonella, Sicily, about an hour's flight from the Mission. US aircraft at Aviano Air Base, in northeastern Italy, were about two hours away. Two Marine Corps Fleet Antiterrorism Security Teams were stationed three-and-a-half to four hours away, in Rota, Spain. Also about three-and-a-half hours away, in Croatia, a forty-man Special Operations Commander's-in-Extremis Force was conducting counterterrorism exercises. And, in the United States, Special Operations forces were eight hours air time away. Yet, when US personnel finally fled Benghazi, eight-and-a-half hours after the attack began, no U.S. assets were airborne.

Initial Administration narrative. For the first ten days following the attacks, the administration repeated, over and over again, that the attack was spontaneous.[1] This narrative was false and misleading, and known to be false.[2]

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1 *See* statements advancing spontaneous attack version by Secretary Clinton, the President, Jay Carney, Susan Rice, Victoria Nuland, David Petraeus, and Michael Morell, appearing verbatim, at endnote 1.

2 Evidence of knowledge of the falsity of spontaneous attack account, by Secretary Clinton, the President, Jay Carney, Susan Rice, Victoria Nuland, David Petraeus, Michael Morell:

- September 11: "I personally [General Carter Ham], and I think the command very quickly got to the point this was not a demonstration, this was a terrorist attack." Exhibit 4 General Ham testimony at Bates 15.
- Ham immediately notified Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey and Secretary of State Leon Panetta.." Exhibit 4 General Ham testimony at Bates 15.
- Shortly after 5:00 p.m., Panetta briefed the President. Exhibit 15 Secretary Panetta and General Ham testimony at Bates 53.
- At 6:07 p.m., a State Department staff member emailed the Executive Office of the President and the FBI: "Update 2: Ansar al-Sharia Claims Responsibility for Benghazi Attack (SBU)." Exhibit 26 State Dept emails Sept 11, 2012, at Bates 79.
- Brigadier General Robert Lovell, deputy head of intelligence for AFRICOM, testified that AFRICOM linked the attacks to Ansar al Sharia "[w]hen we were still in the very early, early hours of this activity."
- At 8:00 p.m., Libyan Deputy Chief of Mission Gregory Hicks briefed Secretary Clinton and staff, by phone. "The only report that our mission made, through every channel," Hicks testified, "was that there had been an attack on a consulate... No protest." Exhibit 2 Gregory Hicks testimony at Bates 7.
- September 12: At 12:46 p.m., a staffer [name redacted] emailed Victoria Nuland, Cheryl Mills, and Jake Sullivan, "Re Libya update from Beth Jones," relating Jones' conversation with Libyan Ambassador Aujali, "When he said his [the Libyan] government suspected that former Qaddafi regime elements carried out the attacks, I told him that the group that conducted the attacks—Ansar Al Sharia—is affiliated with Islamic extremists." Exhibit 27 Emails Victoria Nuland, Patrick Kennedy etc, Sept 11 and 12, 2012, at Bates 80.
- At 5:42 p.m., Susan Rice received an email from Payton L. Knopf with the timeline "4 pm EST Compound begins taking fire from Libyan extremists." It also recites, "Responding to a question about whether the attack was linked to the Mohammed video, she [Victoria Nuland] said that she could not confirm a connect as we simply don't know—and we won't know until

(continued endnote 2)

Grounds for expedition. Given the Administration's history regarding this matter, there is no doubt that the government will not produce many of the records sought absent a court order to do so. Litigation, at both the trial and appellate levels, will be necessary. If the CCB's FOIA requests are processed in the regular course, the records would be disclosed only after the 2016 Presidential election. The particular value of the information will be lost if not disclosed by the summer 2016, when Mrs. Clinton will likely be nominated to run for President. If so, it would deprive the American people of the opportunity to meaningfully participate in this debate. Thus, the circumstances mandate expedited processing.

Subsequent narratives. The Administration has advanced several different versions of the facts. On April 2, 2014, Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell, now retired from government,[3] testified before the House Select Intelligence Committee, chaired by Mike Rogers (who is also leaving public service[4]). Morell "said he did the revising because it would have looked unseemly for the CIA to appear to be pounding its chest and blaming the State Department." *Wall Street J.* "More Obfuscation on Benghazi," April 6, 2014, M. Mukasey. But this mea culpa "doesn't make sense," as Representative Mac Thornberry observed.[5] Moreover, 18 months

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3 *See* "'Revolving door'? Ties between consultancy, Gov't Raise Questions About Benghazi Probe," *Fox News*, March 24, 2014, C. Herridge, relating Morell's employment by consulting firm Beacon Global Strategies, whose "founders and managing directors... know more about the Benghazi terrorist attack and the Obama administration's response... [with] deep ties to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and others involved in the controversy..."

4 *See* "GOP Benghazi Probe Leader Has Huge Conflict Of Interest," Dick Morris, April 8, 2014: "How on earth can the Rogers family justify having a husband who chairs a Congressional committee charged with reviewing the performance of his wife's company in guarding the Benghazi compound?"

5 April 2, 2014 testimony CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Q. Representative Mac Thornberry: To me it seems like you're more interested in protecting the State Department than the State Department is and... that doesn't make sense to me. Can you explain the motivation?

A. Michael Morell: As I said earlier — First of all, if you look at what I took out, the vast majority is information related to the warnings. And as I said earlier, I thought it inappropriate for the CIA to say publicly that we warned of an attack coming... But I simply saw this as a way for CIA to pound its chest and say, "Look, we warned," therefore laying all the blame on the State Department...

ago, Mr. Morell misled Congress about his involvement in crafting the official narrative, when he feigned ignorance of the source of the changes to the "talking points," by remaining silent when Director of National Intelligence James Clapper was asked about the changes in closed door session, in November of 2012.[6] Later that same month, Mr. Morell told senators that the FBI had been responsible for changing the talking points.[7]

Disclosure will settle issues. In any event, the Administration's most recent story, even if true, would not solve the mystery of why the government failed to try to rescue its personnel. The appropriateness of the Administration's efforts to rescue is one of the central issues in the case, and production of records responsive to the CCB's FOIA requests would resolve it. The Commission seeks disclosure of records confirming or refuting Secretary Panetta's claim that he ordered a response,[8] as well as General Dempsey's statement that it would have taken five hours for U.S. forces to get airborne, and 13 hours for the arrival of any rescue

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6 *See* "Rep. Peter King: Morell 'Not Truthful' on Benghazi" *NewsMax* April 3, 2014: "[A]t the [November 2012] Intelligence Committee hearing... [James Clapper said] we drafted different talking points.... [and we] don't know who changed them... Morell sat there as if he, you know, this was something totally foreign to him."

7 *See* "Lawmakers: CIA #2 Lied to Us About Benghazi," *Weekly Standard* S. Hayes, March 3, 2014:

> On November 27, 2012, Morell accompanied U.N. ambassador Susan Rice to Capitol Hill to meet with senators...The first question of the meeting was simple: "Who changed the talking points?" Morell responded, telling the senators that the FBI had made the revisions.... So Graham called FBI leadership to ask why the bureau would have withheld such important information from the CIA. "They went apeshit," says Graham, and offered an unequivocal denial.

8 Summary of FOIA Requests to FBI, State, DoD, and CIA:

- Records of Secretary Panetta's orders to (1) the 130-man Marine Force Reconnaissance Team in Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily, (2) the two Marine Corps Fleet Antiterrorism Security Teams ("FAST") at the Spanish Naval Station Rota, (3) Special Operations Forces in the United States, and (4) the Commanders In-extremis Force in Croatia. Additionally, we have asked for records disclosing the readiness status of assets at those locations, including aircraft, and including Italian aircraft at Sigonella that could have transported the 130-man

(continued endnote 8)

force.[9] The Administration baldly claims that it reacted with all due dispatch, even while the record reflects a delay of around two hours before Secretary Panetta allegedly gave orders. Panetta and Generals Dempsey and Ham learned of the attack shortly after 4:00 p.m. An hour later, just after 5:00 p.m., Panetta and Dempsey briefed the President, in person (just as an unarmed drone diverted by AFRICOM was arriving over the Benghazi compound[10]). After that White House meeting, and after returning to the Pentagon, in rush hour traffic, only then did Secretary Panetta order forces to deploy.[11]

On the issue of when and how the State Department responded, disclosure will reveal whether Secretary Clinton was truthful when she claimed to have sought help from American allies.[12]

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9 "Well, based on the posture, our posture at the time, it would have been n plus 6 plus transit from, with the closest ground force available, and so you're looking at something best case between 13 and 15 hours." Exhibit 15 Secretary Panetta and General Ham testimony, Bates 53.

10 Panetta testified, "Once an attack takes place, the biggest problem you have is getting accurate information about exactly what is taking place in order to then develop what response you need... You've got to be able to have good information about what is taking place in order to be able to effectively respond." Exhibit 15 at Bates 53.

11 Panetta testified that he "[c]ontinued to talk [with the President]. I think we teed up some other issues that we were dealing with at the time to inform the President, and then once that concluded we both went back to the Pentagon and immediately I ordered the deployment of these forces into place." Exhibit 15 at Bates 54.

12 Secretary Clinton testimony, Senate Hearing, January 23, 2013: "I directed our response from the State Department, stayed in close contact with officials from across our government and the Libyan government." Exhibit 3 Secretary Clinton testimony Bates 9-10.

See April 7 2014 State Dept FOIA Request No 5: "Records generated from Secretary Clinton's September 11th and 12th, 2012 requests for help for personnel at the Special Mission Compound and the CIA Annex, to:
(a) The Libyan government;
(b) The Turkish Consulate in Benghazi;
(c) The Italian Consulate in Benghazi; and
(d) The U.K. Security Team.

Already the available record would appear to refute the Administration's position that it gave no "stand-down" order or its equivalent: At the May 8, 2013 Hearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Congressman Chaffetz asked Gregory Hicks, "How did the [Tripoli] personnel react to being told to stand down?" Hicks responded, "They were furious. I can only say—well, I will quote Lieutenant Colonel Gibson. He said, 'This is the first time in my career that a diplomat has more balls than somebody in the military.'" Again, disclosure of the records sought would settle the matter.[13]

Arms trafficking. The CCB's FOIA requests to State, CIA, FBI, and DoD, cumulatively, are aimed at revealing the facts of the Benghazi tragedy, and facts regarding the bigger picture. Arms trafficking cannot be ignored. Was CIA arms trafficking the only reason that State maintained diplomatic facilities in Benghazi?[14] Did the Administration submit a "finding" to eight members of Congress before the CIA engaged in covert gun-running,[15] or did the CIA classify the mission as a liaison

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13 See footnote 33 for CCB FOIA requests to the FBI.

14 *See* "The Red Line and the Rat Line," *London R. of Books*, April 17, 2014, S. Hersh: "The consulate's only mission was to provide cover for the moving of arms... 'It had no real political role.'" *See also* "Mainstream Media on Benghazi: It Was About Gun-running," *The New American*, Aug. 7, 2013: "Establishment media outlets reporting on the reputed CIA gun-running operation over the past week included Fox News' Geraldo Rivera, London's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, and CNN television. *** He [Ambassador Stevens] had the perfect résumé for gun-running, as he had helped manage gun-running to the Libyan rebels during the insurgency against former dictator Moammar Gadhafi. *** Gun-running revelations would also cast the CIA talking points memo scandal in a completely different light. *See also,* "Analysis: CIA role in Benghazi underreported," *CNN*, May 15th, 2013.

See also April 7, 2014 CCB FOIA Request No. 3 to State Department: "Records of communications sent from, received by, or routed through, Secretary Clinton's office regarding the need for a "permanent constituent post" in Benghazi, as well as records regarding Secretary of State Clinton's decision to continue operations in Benghazi, including the extent to which the Benghazi Mission in any way facilitated the existence and operations of the CIA Annex."

15 *See* Feb 24, 2014 CIA FOIA Request Nos. 12 and 13: "For the period of February 15th, 2011, through December 31st, 2012, all DOD and CIA or other intelligence community records, shared with members of Congress, regarding collection, storage, transportation of arms and equipment in Libya [and] transport of arms to Syrian rebel forces."

operation with the British to circumvent that law, as Sy Hersh reported?[16] Did the President really decline to implement CIA Director Petraeus' plan to supply weapons to Syrian revolutionaries, against the counsel of Joint Chiefs Chairman Dempsey, and Secretaries Panetta and Clinton,[17] as Panetta testified, or did the President, in fact, authorize these arms transfers of Libyan munitions? Secretary Clinton testified that Libya has been "awash with weapons"[18] since the February 2011 Libyan Revolution. Also beyond dispute is that the CIA played a significant role in retrieval and storage of weapons in Libya, as well as to later transfers to Syrian rebels via Turkey. Press reports refer to Congressional approval of covert CIA supply of arms to Syrian rebels in 2013, but what about in 2012?[19] Whatever

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16 April 17, 2014, "The Red Line and the Rat Line," *London R. of Books*, S. Hersh.

17 April 7, 2014, CCB FOIA Request Nos. 1 and 2 to State Department:

Records generated from August 2009, through October of 2011, regarding Secretary of State Clinton's recommendations regarding U.S. support to those seeking to oust forces loyal to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and his government. Records generated from March of 2011 through September of 2012, regarding Secretary of State Clinton's recommendations to support those seeking to oust forces loyal to the government of Bashar al-Assad.

18 Testimony of Mrs. Clinton on January 23, 2013, before the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Exhibit 3 at Bates 11: "Libya was awash in weapons before the revolution. Obviously, there were additional weapons introduced... and have made their way out of Libya into other countries in the region, and have made their way to Syria, we believe...."

See also February 2014 UN Security Council "Final report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011) concerning Libya" Exhibit 29 at Bates 90: "[Over] the past three years, Libya has become a primary source of illicit weapons... including man-portable air defense systems," "mostly controlled by non-State armed groups" (UN Report ¶¶ 5-6, 18), and predominantly in the eastern part of the country. *Id.* ¶ 33. Bates 89. "Transfers from Libya... of more regular and significant quantities of arms... have developed towards three geographic areas, namely, the Syrian Arab Republic via Lebanon and Turkey, Egypt and the Sahel.... Transfers of arms and ammunition from Libya were among the first batches of weapons and ammunition to reach the Syrian opposition...," and "Syrian Arab Republic had become a preeminent destination for Libyan weapons..." *Id.* ¶ 64 Bates 90.

19 CCB FOIA Requests include intelligence community records shared with Congress regarding CIA transport of arms to Syrian rebel forces.

the truth of the arms transfers out of Libya, Secretary Clinton, an ardent champion of both the Libyan and Syrian revolutions, was surely aware of it. Her claim that she had "no information" about CIA arms trafficking out of Libya[20] is plainly not credible.

Public interest. Here, the public interest in disclosure is enormous. The Commission expects these FOIA-requested records to reveal answers to questions raised by the Administration's cover-up of the true catalyst for the attack, as well as the issue of why no rescue assets were deployed. Americans know almost nothing of the facts of the Benghazi tragedy. Was the attack an attempt to kidnap Ambassador Stevens, as Admiral Lyons' source inside the FBI reported? Was it an attempt to free CIA-held Libyan prisoners, as Director Petraeus apparently told Ms. Broadwell?[21] Why was the American flag the last foreign flag still flying in Benghazi? Indeed, the very reason for maintaining CIA facilities in Benghazi still

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20 Testimony of Mrs. Clinton on February 7, 2013, before the Senate Committee on Armed Services:

Senator Ran Paul:

Q. Now, my question is, is the U.S. involved with any procuring of weapons, transfer of weapons, buying, selling, anyhow transferring weapons to Turkey out of Libya?

Hillary Clinton:

A. To Turkey? I—I will have to take that question for the record. Nobody's ever raised that with me. I don't—

Q. It's been—it's been in news reports that ships have been leaving from Libya and that they may have weapons. And what I'd like to know is the annex that was close by, were they involved with procuring, buying, selling, obtaining weapons? And were any of these weapons being transferred to other countries, any countries, Turkey included?

A. Well, Senator, you'll have to direct—direct that question to the agency that ran the annex. I will—I will see what information is available and—

Q. You're saying you don't know.

A. I do not know. I don't have any information on that...

Exhibit 3 Secretary Clinton testimony at Bates 12-13.

21 *See* October 26, 2012 YouTube Paula Broadwell talk: "Now, I don't know if a lot of you have heard this but the CIA annex had actually taken a couple of Libyan militia members prisoner, and they think that the attack on the consulate was an attempt to get these prisoners back. It's still being vetted."

remains shrouded in government secrecy.[22] Perhaps this is because "U.S. leadership decided to facilitate the provision of weapons to jihadist militias known to be affiliated with al-Qa'eda and the Muslim Brotherhood in order to bring down a brutal dictator," as Commission member Clare Lopez observed in her April 22, 2014 AIM column, *Material Support to Terrorism: The Case of Libya*. Are Administration officials concerned about charges of violations of The Arms Export Control Act,[23] or even materially supporting terrorists?[24]

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22 The State Department's public reason for the existence of a diplomatic facility in Benghazi appears in its December 27, 2011, three page "Action Memo for Under Secretary Kennedy," by then Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Jeffrey Feltman. Recommending renewal of the lease of the Special Mission Compound, Feltman wrote that, although sharing facilities with the CIA would be the "most economical option" at present, "State presence cannot be accommodated at the annex." Exhibit 28 Action Memo for Under Secretary Kennedy, Dec 27, 2011, Bates 86. But Feltman made this observation without even identifying the CIA. Such a conspicuous absence of the identity of State's proposed co-tenant, along with the dubious reasons advanced for State's remaining in Benghazi, suggests that Feltman knew, but withheld from his memo, that the primary purpose of the mission was to provide cover for a CIA presence in Benghazi.

23 *Material Support to Terrorism: The Case of Libya*. C. Lopez, April 22, 2014, *AIM Column*: The Arms Export Control Act is another law that makes it illegal for the U.S. government to export "munitions" to any country determined by the Secretary of State to have "repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism[1]." While this provision applies specifically to those countries—Cuba, North Korea, Iran, and Syria—that are designated as state sponsors of terrorism, the case of Libya stands out nevertheless. Removed from the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism in 2006, Libya by early 2011 was swarming with al-Qa'eda and Muslim Brotherhood militias and affiliates fighting to overthrow Muamar Qaddafi's regime.

24 *Material Support to Terrorism...* C. Lopez, April 22, 2014, *AIM Column*: "United States law is quite explicit about providing material support to terrorists: it's prohibited. Period. 18 U.S. Code § 2339A and 18 U.S. Code § 2339B address Providing Material Support to Terrorists or Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Together, these two sections outlaw the actions of any U.S. person who attempts or conspires to provide, or actually does provide, material support to a foreign terrorist organization knowing that it has been designated a foreign terrorist organization or engages, or has engaged, in 'terrorism' or 'terrorist activity.'"

The U.S. media were not so silent regarding these covert matters in October of 2012, as Ms. Lopez observed at the time:

* * *

> According to media reporting, Benghazi was staffed by CIA operatives whose job may have been not just to secure and destroy dangerous weapons (like RPGs and SAMs) looted from former Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi's stockpiles during and after the 2011 revolution, but also perhaps to facilitate their onward shipment to the Al-Qaeda- and Muslim Brotherhood-dominated Syrian opposition.
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> * * *
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> President Barack Obama signed an intelligence finding sometime in early 2012 that authorized U.S. support for the Syrian rebels and by mid-June 2012, CIA operatives reportedly were on the Turkish-Syrian border helping to steer weapons deliveries to selected Syrian rebel groups. According to an Oct. 14, 2012 *New York Times* article, most of those arms were going to "hard-line Islamic jihadists."
>
> One of those *jihadis* may well be Abdelhakim Belhadj, former leader of the Al-Qa'eda-linked Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) and head of the Tripoli Military Council after Qaddafi's ouster. During the 2011 revolt in Libya, Belhadj was almost certainly a key contact of the U.S. liaison to the Libyan opposition, Christopher Stevens.
>
> In November 2011, Belhadj was reported to have met with Syrian Free Army (SFA) leaders in Istanbul, Turkey, as well as on the Turkish-Syrian border. Further, Belhadj's contact with the SFA comes in the context of *official policy* adopted by the post-Qaddafi Libyan "government," which sent a delegation to Turkey to offer arms and possibly fighters to the Turkish-backed Syrian rebels. "There is something being planned to send weapons and even Libyan fighters to Syria," according to a Libyan source quoted in a November, 2011 *Telegraph* report.

"Benghazi: The Set-Up and the Cover-Up," Oct 30, 2012, C. Lopez, *Pundicity.com*.

Congressional oversight. Congressional probes and reports demonstrate the State Department's gross negligence: State knew of the significant threat,[25] received requests for more protection,[26] but Secretary Clinton and Undersecretary Kennedy refused to increase security.[27] As illuminating as the six reports[28] by five different Committees[29] are in detailing the State Department's negligence, all such reports are silent on the issue of motive for the absence of an immediate DoD response. The Commission has every confidence in Congressman Trey Gowdy's skills, and bone fides, and the CCB seeks to help the Select Committee in any way it can.

Commission investigation. In an effort to assist the Select Committee, on May 20, 2014, the CCB submitted to Mr. Gowdy's office three documents, copies of which are enclosed; a 14-page timeline, a three-page "Executive Summary & Key Findings," and a three-page "Questions for the Select Committee on Benghazi," posing 23 questions. Six of these 23:

- Where were Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the JCS General Martin Dempsey during the crisis and what inputs, recommendations and decisions did they make?

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25 *See* endnote 25 for examples of intelligence community analytic reports warning of intent to strike US and Western facilities and personnel in Libya.

26 Endnote 26 contains the specifics of six requests for protection.

27 *See* April 19, 2012: "[T]he response cable from... Secretary Clinton... [to Ambassador Cretz's request for more security] instead articulates a plan to scale back security assets for the U.S. Mission in Libya, including the Benghazi Mission." Exhibit 7 Republican majorities' April 23, 2013 INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT..., at Bates 26. *See also* July 13, 2012: "State Department Undersecretary Patrick Kennedy refused the Defense Department offer and thus Chris's July 9 request. His rationale was that Libyan guards would be hired to take over this responsibility." Exhibit 14 "Gregory Hicks: Benghazi and the Smearing of Chris Stevens," *Wall Street J.*, Jan 22, 2014 Bates 48.

28 *See* endnote 28 regarding the six Congressional reports.

29
(1) House Committee on Armed Services;
(2) House Committee on Foreign Affairs;
(3) House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform;
(4) House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and
(5) Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

- Why was President Obama not in the Situation Room that night, as Tommy Vietor has recalled?
- Where were the National Security Advisor, Tom Donilon, and his Deputies, Denis McDonough and John Brennan; and where was Valerie Jarrett during the attacks and more importantly, what inputs and recommendations (if any) did any of them make to Obama?
- Who made the decision not to deploy the joint/interagency Foreign Emergency Support Team (FEST) and why?
- What specifically was the relationship between Official U.S. Envoy and later Ambassador Christopher Stevens with the known al-Qa'eda and Muslim Brotherhood figures, groups, and militias who led the 2011 revolution against Muammar Qaddafi?[30]
- Who made the decision to allow ships full of weapons from Qatar to pass through the NATO blockade in 2011 to be delivered to Libyan Muslim Brotherhood and/or al-Qa'eda rebels?

Search and review fees. The CCB qualifies as a "member of the news media" under the FOIA, entitling it to a waiver of search and review fees that otherwise might be incurred. AIM is a 501(c)(3) Corporation, organized to distribute news to the American public, which it has been doing for almost 45 years. Its 1971 Articles of Incorporation is attached. AIM's semi-monthly newsletter, *The AIM Report,* has gone out without fail for 42 years. AIM has over 5,000 subscribers. Its other publications include AIM columns, *Briefings* (opinions), *Special Reports,* and *Guest Columns.* AIM's principals have published three books on the subject of the news media: *Media Mischief and Misdeeds* 1984; *Profiles in Deception* 1990; and *News Manipulators* 1993. AIM has also produced several nationally distributed documentaries, including (1) *Television's Vietnam*, (2) *The Clinton Legacy*, (3) *TWA 800: The Search for the Truth*, and (4) *Confronting Iraq*. More than 100,000 people visit AIM 's website nearly every month. Newspapers and websites around the country oftentimes pick up *The AIM Report*'s stories. Due to its many efforts, AIM enjoys the ability to convey information to a broad public audience.

To be entitled to news media status under 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(II), the FOIA requester must (1) gather information of potential interest to the general public, (2) use its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and (3) have concrete plans to distribute that work to its audience. Here, AIM has already published twenty articles about Benghazi, one in 2012, eight in 2013, and eleven in the first five months of 2014.[31]

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30 *See* endnote 30 for Feb 24, 2014 CCB FOIA Request to FBI, CIA, and State for records "generated between January of 2007 and September 11, 2012, regarding meetings between Christopher Stevens or any other Tripoli Embassy official, and one or more of the following [nine] individuals..."

31 Endnote 31 list 20 AIM articles on Benghazi, by title, date, and author.

Even if AIM were the only FOIA requester here entitled to be treated as a member of the news media, these requests would still have to be accorded news media status. But AIM is not the only "member of the news media" here. Roger Aronoff is Editor of Accuracy in Media, and hosts of AIM's show on BlogTalkRadio, "Take AIM." Mr. Aronoff has worked as a journalist, TV producer, director, and writer, including the syndicated 2009 PBS show, "Think Tank with Ben Wattenberg." He has written and directed award-winning documentaries, *Confronting Iraq: Conflict and Hope, The Clinton Legacy* and *TWA 800: The Search for the Truth*. He has appeared as a guest commentator on National Public Radio, Air America, CNN, Fox News, CNBC's "Kudlow & Company," Court TV, Russia Today, and Canadian TV, among others. Mr. Aronoff himself wrote 12 of the 20 aforementioned Benghazi articles published by AIM.

James "Ace" Lyons is a former four-star admiral, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and the Father of the Navy Seal Red Cell Program. His other commands include U.S. Second Fleet, NATO Striking Fleet, as well as the Seventh Fleet Logistic Force, plus several ship commands. As the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations from 1983 to 1985, he was principal advisor on all Joint Chiefs of Staff matters. He also served as Senior U.S. Military Representative to the United Nations. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and has received post-graduate degrees from the U.S. Naval War College and the U.S. National Defense University. Admiral Lyons has appeared on Fox Business News several times and is a regular contributor to the Op Ed Section of the Washington Times, which has published seven of his pieces about the Benghazi tragedy:

- "Obama's Chain of Command Unravels Over Benghazi Murders," Oct 18, 2012;
- "Obama needs to come clean on what happened in Benghazi," Oct 28, 2012;
- "The Key Benghazi Questions Still Unanswered," Jan 11, 2013;
- "A hard slog to get Benghazi answers," Jan 30, 2013;
- "A call to Courage over Benghazi," May 1, 2013;
- "Benghazi demands a select committee in Congress," Jan 16, 2014;
- "Benghazi was a planned tragedy," March 3, 2014.

Clare Lopez is a strategic policy and intelligence expert with a focus on national defense, Islam, Iran, and counterterrorism issues. Currently Vice President for Research and Analysis at the Center for Security Policy, and senior fellow at The Clarion Project, Gatestone Institute, and the Canadian Meighen Institute and vice president of the Intelligence Summit, she formerly was a career operations officer with the Central Intelligence Agency, a professor at the Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies, Executive Director of the Iran Policy Committee from 2005-2006, and has served as a consultant, intelligence analyst,

and researcher for a variety of defense firms. She was named a Lincoln Fellow at the Claremont Institute in 2011. Clare's publications on Benghazi include "Did Turkey Play a Role in Benghazi Attack?" *Clarion Project*, Oct 31, 2012, and "Benghazi: The Set-Up and the Cover-Up," *Pundicity.com*, Oct 30, 2012; "Material Support to Terrorism: The Case of Libya," *Accuracy in Media*, April 22, 2014.

Wayne Simmons spent 27 years working with the CIA to combat terrorism, narco-terrorism and narcotics trafficking, arms smuggling, counterfeiting, cyber-terrorists, and industrial and economic espionage. He sits on the Advisory Council for the Intelligence Summit, and is a contributor to the conservative publication *Human Events*. Simmons has served as a terrorism analyst for the Fox News Channel since 2002, where he has opined on the Benghazi tragedy approximately a half-dozen times since September 11, 2012.

Three of the FOIA requesters, Captain Larry Bailey, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Benway, and Colonel Richard F. ("Dick") Brauer Jr. USAF, (Ret), are all co-founders of *Special Operations Speaks* ("SOS"), an organization that speaks out on defense-related issues, particularly those involving special operations forces. SOS is focused on Benghazi. Ten of the eleven news articles posted on the SOS homepage are about Benghazi.[32]

Captain Larry Bailey is a 27-year U.S. Navy SEAL veteran. Obtaining his commission from Navy Officer Candidate School in 1962, he was first assigned to the

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32 *See* SOS homepage http://specialoperationsspeaks.com/welcome linking:

- "Dear Rep. Gowdy," *SOS*, May 30, 2014.
- "Was the Benghazi video story the brainchild of Hillary Clinton?" *Family Security Matters*, May 5, 2014.
- "Father of Navy SEAL Killed in Benghazi Speaks Out and Shreds the Administration's Lies," *Fox News* May 3, 2014.
- "Breaking News: Speaker Boehner Announces Vote On Select Committee," SOS May 2, 2014.
- "'Smoking gun' Benghazi email prompts renewed push for select committee," *Fox News* May 1, 2014.
- "Top Intel Chief Testifies: 'We Should Have Sent Help For Americans in Benghazi,'" *Town Hall* May 1, 2014.
- "Judicial Watch: Benghazi Documents Point to White House on Misleading Talking Points," SOS April 29, 2014.
- "Benghazi attack could have been prevented if US hadn't 'switched Sides in the War on Terror,'" *Daily Mail* April 23, 2014.
- "House Intel member: Two flags flew at Benghazi—al-Qaeda and the U.S." *United Liberty*" April 4, 2014.
- "Fox News Poll: Voters say Obama covering up on Benghazi, want Congress to keep investigating," *Fox News* April 17, 2014.

destroyer USS LEARY before receiving orders to Underwater Demolition Team training in Little Creek, VA. After a year in UDT-22, he was assigned to SEAL Team TWO, where he spent almost five years and with whom he participated in the Dominican Republic invasion, and deployed to Vietnam, where he led the first East Coast SEAL platoon into combat. Included in Captain Bailey's duty stations were the Philippines, Panama, Bolivia, and Scotland. He commanded Naval Special Warfare Center, where all SEALs are trained, for three years and retired in 1990 from the U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. Since 2007, Captain Bailey has been involved in issues of national policy and has chaired Gathering of Eagles. Captain Bailey is the author of "Navy SEAL: 'There's guilt in this administration,'" *WND*, April 8, 2013.

Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Benway enlisted in the U.S. Army as a parachute infantryman in 1966. He underwent Army Special Forces training and deployed to Vietnam, serving from 1967-68, as a Special Forces medic with a Chinese Nung Company of the I Corps Mobile Strike Force, 5th Special Forces Group. In 1970, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant of Infantry, serving in leadership assignments in both Germany and Italy with the 509th Parachute Infantry. Over the course of 27 years in uniform, he served with the 3d, 5th and 10th Special Forces Groups, with the Special Operations Command (Europe), as an exchange program officer with the Susa Alpine Infantry Battalion (Italian Army) in northwest Italy, and with the US Army JFK Special Warfare Center and School. On retiring in 1993, he served as senior special operations analyst, program manager and corporate director in a variety of contracted support arrangements with the U.S. Army Special Operations community.

Colonel Richard F. ("Dick") Brauer Jr. USAF, (Ret) amassed 5,200 hours of worldwide flying, attaining the aeronautical rating of Master Navigator. His tours of flying duty and deployments include Southeast Asia/Vietnam (1967-68), Europe, Central and South America (1968- 1971) and Australia (1971-1973), where he represented the USAF and the United States as an Exchange Officer, flying as an instructor in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Following his Pentagon tour he was selected to be the 12th Commandant of the United States Air Force Special Operations School (Hurlburt Field, FL) and served the joint SOF, conventional and interagency communities in that education leadership position from 1986 until his retirement in 1991, having completed 26 years of active duty military service. In 2010 Colonel Brauer was inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame.

Kevin Shipp, a former CIA Officer and Antiterrorism expert, held several high level positions in the CIA. He was assigned as a protective agent for the Director of Central Intelligence, a counterintelligence investigator, a Counter Terrorism Center officer, a team leader protecting sensitive CIA assets from assassination, a manager of high-risk protective operations, a lead instructor for members of allied

governments, an internal staff security investigator, and a polygraph examiner. He was tasked with protecting the CIA from foreign agent penetration and the chief of training for the CIA federal police force. Mr. Shipp functioned as program manager for the Department of State, Diplomatic Security, and Anti Terrorism Assistance global police-training program. He is the recipient of two CIA Meritorious Unit Citations, three Exceptional Performance Awards and a Medallion for overseas covert operations. He is the author of the book, *From the Company of Shadows–CIA Operations and the War on Terrorism.*

Reproduction costs. "Documents shall be furnished without any charge or at a charge reduced... if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). The CCB is entitled to such a waiver, because they have concrete plans to make the information public, which is likely to contribute to an understanding of government operations and activities. Moreover, the CCB seeks disclosure in electronic format. *See* e-FOIA amendment 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(3)(B), as amended, requiring Agency to "provide the record in any form or format requested . . . if the record is readily reproducible by the agency in that form or format."

The public has a right to disclosure of records that would answer the many questions posed by the facts of the Benghazi attacks—*before* the next presidential election. Any denial of expedited processing should include an explanation of whether the FBI anticipates producing all records sought,[33] and, if so, when.

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33 **May 28, 2014 FOIA Request to FBI:**

1. All records describing or defining the purpose, scope, jurisdiction, and power of the FBI's investigation into the Benghazi attacks, including the identity of government official(s) requesting or ordering the probe.
2. All records of the Bureau's findings in its investigation into the Benghazi attacks. Responsive records include those that regard (1) the identities of any non-US personnel questioned, interrogated, detained, or transported through, the Annex, (2) weapons brought into, and removed from, the Annex, as well as such weaponry's destinations including whether abandoned on September 12, 2012, (3) communication and cryptographic equipment left in the Consulate and Annex when US personnel abandoned the facilities on September 12, 2012, and (4) any probe into the meetings from January 2007 through September 2012 between Tripoli Embassy officials, including Christopher Stevens, and the individuals identified in the following Request 3 below.

3. All notes, memoranda, and correspondence generated between January of 2007 and September 11, 2012, regarding meetings between Christopher Stevens or any other Tripoli Embassy official, and one or more of the following individuals... Abu Khattala, a commander of the Libyan Ansar al-Shariah militia group... Mustafa Jalil, Chairman of the Libyan National Transitional Council...Mahmoud Jibril, Interim Prime Minister of Libya and Chair of the Executive Board of the National Transitional Council ... Wissam bin Hamid, a Libya Shield Brigade commander... who provided security for US representatives in Benghazi and was tentatively identified by the Library of Congress as the head of al-Qa'eda in Libya... Abdelhakim ...veteran jihad fighter... Libyan delegation leader to the Syrian Free Army... Ismael al-Sallabi... Benghazi Military Council commander... Ali al-Sallabi ... the 'spiritual leader' of the Libyan revolution ... Mohammad al-Sallabi...among the founders of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood ...Abu Sufian bin Qumu, veteran jihad fighter ... led Benghazi Mission attack in Sep 2012.
4. Any other records of whatsoever nature regarding (1) the Benghazi consulate and (2) its CIA Annex, for the time period of January 1st, 2011, through September 30th, 2012. This request is all-inclusive for all records, however recorded, including emails, reports, memoranda, correspondence, teletypes, telephone calls, text messages, and audio and video recordings, regarding all uses of the Benghazi consulate and CIA Annex.
5. All records generated between September 11, 2012 and the present, by survivors of the September 11th and 12th attacks on the Benghazi mission and the Benghazi CIA Annex, or by any person regarding the survivors' accounts of the attack.
6. All calendars, day books, journals, notes, memoranda, or other records reflecting Ambassador Stevens' schedule on September 11, 2012, including the Ambassador's diary, and all correspondence to or from the Ambassador regarding his meetings that day, including with the Turkish Consul General.
7. All records of the purpose of Ambassador Stevens' meetings on September 11, 2012, including analysis or assessments of those meetings, whether written before or after September 11, 2012.
8. September 15th or 16th FBI 302 Interview Reports, and corresponding handwritten notes, of interviews conducted in Germany of United States personnel who had been in the Benghazi mission and the Benghazi CIA annex during the September 11th and 12th attacks on those facilities.
9. Records of the video teleconference on the afternoon of the September 16th, 2012, between the FBI and other IC officials in Washington...
10. Complete Autopsy Reports of each of the victims of the September 11th and 12th, 2012, Benghazi attacks of the Ambassador's compound, and the CIA Annex.

See also CCB FOIA requests to CIA, FBI, and DoD at http://www.aim.org/benghazi/freedom-of-information-act-requests/

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information, or documentation. Kindly produce the records in electronic format, to Accuracy in Media, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 555, Bethesda, MD 20814-4582.

Sincerely,

John H. Clarke

cc: Accuracy in Media, Inc.
Roger Aronoff
Larry Bailey
Kenneth Benway
Dick Brauer
Clare Lopez
James A. Lyons, Jr.
Kevin Shipp
Wayne Simmons

ENDNOTES

		Page
Endnote 1:	Statements advancing spontaneous attack version by Secretary Clinton, the President, Jay Carney, Susan Rice, Victoria Nuland, David Petraeus and Michael Morell.	24-25
Endnote 2:	Evidence of knowledge of the falsity of any spontaneous attack, by Secretary Clinton, the President, Jay Carney, Susan Rice, Victoria Nuland, David Petraeus, Michael Morell	26-27
Endnote 8:	Summary of records sought from (1) the DoD, (2) CIA, (3) State Department, and (4) FBI	28-29
Endnote 25:	Intelligence community reports warning of intent to strike US facilities.	29-30
Endnote 26:	Six requests to the State Department for increased protection	30-31
Endnote 28:	Six Congressional Reports.	31-33
Endnote 30:	CCB FOIA Request to CIA for records re meetings between Chris Stevens or other Tripoli Embassy official and one or more of the nine individuals.	34
Endnote 31:	20 Accuracy in Media articles on Benghazi.	35-36

ENDNOTES:

Endnote 1:
Statements advancing spontaneous attack version by Secretary Clinton, the President, Jay Carney, Susan Rice, Victoria Nuland, David Petraeus, and Michael Morell:

- September 12: Secretary Clinton stated to the press that "[s]ome have sought to justify this vicious behavior as a response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet." Exhibit 18 Bates 59.
- The President stated in a Rose Garden speech that "[n]o acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation, alter that character, or eclipse the light of the values that we stand for," and stated on 60 Minutes that "it's too early to know how exactly this came about, what group was involved, but obviously it was an attack on Americans and we are going to be working with the Libyan government to make sure that we bring these folks to justice, one way or the other." Exhibit 17 Remarks by President, Office of White House Press Secretary, Sept 12, 2012, Bates 58.
- The DoD issued a Press Release that General Dempsey telephoned Pastor Terry Jones and asked Jones to stop endorsing "Innocence of Muslims." Exhibit 17 Remarks by President, Sept 12, 2012, Bates 55.
- September 13: Press Secretary Jay Carney stated that "[t]he protests we're seeing around the region are in reaction to this movie." Exhibit 30 Press briefing Jay Carney, Sept 13, 2012, Bates 92.
- September 14: Carney stated that the Administration was not aware of any actionable intelligence indicating that an attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi was planned or imminent." Exhibit 31 Press briefing Jay Carney Sept 14, 2012, Bates 97.
- CIA Director David Petraeus testified in a closed-door session before the Senate Intelligence Committee that that the attacks were spontaneous, according to Representative Peter King. Exhibit 33 "Ex-CIA chief Petraeus testifies Benghazi attack was al Qaeda-linked terrorism," Nov 16, 2012, *CNN Wire*: "[W]hat he told us on September 14,' King said. '... was that the overwhelming amount of evidence was that it arose out of a spontaneous demonstration, and was not a terrorist attack.'"
- September 15: Clinton assured Tyrone Woods' father at funeral that "Innocence of Muslims" maker would be "prosecute[d]." *See* transcript October 25 2012 radio interview Charles Woods.
- September 16, 2012: UN Ambassador Susan Rice attributed the attack to the "Innocence of Muslims," on five Sunday talk shows:
    - ABC This Week: "We believe that folks in Benghazi, a small number of people came to the embassy to... replicate the sort of challenge that was posed in Cairo. And then as that unfolded, it seems to have been

hijacked, let us say, by some individual clusters of extremists who came with heavier weapons... [a]nd it then evolved from there." Exhibit 34 "'This Week' Transcript: U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice," *ABC News*, Sept 16, 2012.

- CBS Face the Nation: "But based on the best information we have to date, what our assessment is as of the present, is in fact what, it began spontaneously in Benghazi as a reaction to what had transpired some hours earlier in Cairo, where of course, as you know, there was a violent protest outside of our embassy sparked by this hateful video."
- Fox News Sunday: "The information, the best information and the best assessment we have today is that in fact this was not a preplanned, premeditated attack. That what happened initially was that it was a spontaneous reaction to what had just transpired in Cairo as a consequence of the video. People gathered outside the embassy and then it grew very violent and those with extremist ties joined the fray and came with heavy weapons... then spun out of control." Exhibit 35 "Amb. Susan Rice, Rep. Mike Rogers discuss violence against Americans in the Middle East," *Fox News*, Sept 16, 2012.
- NBC Meet the Press: "[W]hat happened in Benghazi was in fact initially a spontaneous reaction to what had just transpired hours before in Cairo, almost a copycat of—of the demonstrations against our facility in Cairo, which were prompted, of course, by the video." Exhibit 36 "Benjamin Netanyahu, Susan Rice, Keith Ellison, Peter King, Bob Woodward, Jeffrey Goldberg,," *NBC News*, Sept 16, 2012.
- CNN State of the Union: "[S]ome mob was hijacked ultimately by a handful of extremists, the United States is extremely popular..." Exhibit 37 "State of the Union with Candy Crowley," *CNN* Sept 16, 2012.

- September 17: State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland stated that "Ambassador Rice... was very clear... It was also an assessment that you've heard in comments coming from the intelligence community, in comments coming from the White House." Exhibit 20 Victoria Nuland Press Briefing, Sept 17, 2012, Bates 63.
- September 18: Carney stated that "it was the video that caused the unrest in Cairo, and the video and the unrest in Cairo that helped—that precipitated some of the unrest in Benghazi." Exhibit 19 Press briefing Jay Carney, Sep 18, 2012 Bates 61.
- September 19: Carney stated that the administration had "no evidence of a pre-planned or premeditated attack." Exhibit 25 Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, Sept 19, 2012, Bates 76.
- September 20: At a campaign event, the President said that "the outrage over the video were used as an excuse by extremists to see if they can also directly harm U.S. interests." Exhibit 24 "Obama: Extremists used video as 'excuse' to Attack," BigStory.org, K. Thomas Sept 20, 2012, Bates 73.

Endnote 2:
Evidence of knowledge of the falsity of any spontaneous Attack, by Secretary Clinton, the President, Jay Carney, Susan Rice, Victoria Nuland, David Petraeus Michael Morell:

- September 11: "I personally [General Carter Ham], and I think the command very quickly got to the point this was not a demonstration, this was a terrorist attack." Exhibit 4 General Ham testimony at Bates 15.
- Ham immediately notified Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey and Secretary of State Leon Panetta.." Exhibit 4 General Ham testimony at Bates 15.
- Shortly after 5:00 p.m., Panetta briefed the President. Exhibit 15 Secretary Panetta and General Ham testimony at Bates 53.
- At 6:07 p.m., a State Department staff member emailed the Executive Office of the President and the FBI: "Update 2: Ansar al-Sharia Claims Responsibility for Benghazi Attack (SBU)." Exhibit 26 State Dept emails Sept 11, 2012, at Bates 79.
- Brigadier General Robert Lovell, deputy head of intelligence for AFRICOM, testified that AFRICOM linked the attacks to Ansar al Sharia "[w]hen we were still in the very early, early hours of this activity."
- At 8:00 p.m., Libyan Deputy Chief of Mission Gregory Hicks briefed Secretary Clinton and staff, by phone. "The only report that our mission made, through every channel," Hicks testified, "was that there had been an attack on a consulate... No protest." Exhibit 2 Gregory Hicks testimony at Bates 7.
- September 12: At 12:46 p.m., a staffer [name redacted] emailed Victoria Nuland, Cheryl Mills, and Jake Sullivan, "Re Libya update from Beth Jones," relating Jones' conversation with Libyan Ambassador Aujali, "When he said his [the Libyan] government suspected that former Qaddafi regime elements carried out the attacks, I told him that the group that conducted the attacks—Ansar Al Sharia—is affiliated with Islamic extremists." Exhibit 27 Emails Victoria Nuland, Patrick Kennedy etc, Sept 11 and 12, 2012 at Bates 80.
- At 5:42 p.m., Susan Rice received an email from Payton L. Knopf with the timeline "4 pm EST Compound begins taking fire from Libyan extremists." It also recites, "Responding to a question about whether the attack was linked to the Mohammed video, she [Victoria Nuland] said that she could not confirm a connect as we simply don't know—and we won't know until there's an investigation." Exhibit 9 Sept 12, 14-15, 2012 emails to Susan Rice, Bates 42-43.
- September 13: McClatchy issued an article featuring an interview with an eyewitness, who reported that there was no protest. Exhibit 22 "No protest before Benghazi attack, wounded Libyan guard says," McClatchy Newspapers, Sept 13, 2012, Bates 68.
- September 14: CIA Tripoli Station released a report, widely disseminated throughout the intelligence community, recounting that there was no protest. Exhibit 1 Bates 2.

- At 7:39 p.m., State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland wrote, "[W]hy do we want Hill to be fingering Ansar al Sharia, when we aren't doing that ourselves until we have investigation results..." Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes was a recipient of the 7:39 p.m. email. Exhibit 5 White House emails re talking points, Sept 14, 2012 at Bates 17.
- Minutes later, Rhodes emailed Jay Carney regarding "Prep call with Susan: Saturday at 4:00 p.m. ET," writing that one goal was "[t]o underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy." Exhibit 9 Sept 12, 14-15, 2012 emails to Susan Rice. Bates 34.
- September 15, 2012: That day, the Annex team reported there were no protests. The CIA Chief of Station Tripoli sent a message to CIA staff stating that the Benghazi attacks were "not/not an escalation of protests." Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell has stated that he read this as part of his daily briefing and passed this on to analysts. Exhibit 1 Michael Morell testimony, Bates 3.
- Morell testified that "Near the end of the [morning] email was a reference to the COS's assessment that the Benghazi attack was 'not an escalation of protests.' I read the email as part of my morning reading on 15 September...." Exhibit 1 Michael Morell testimony, Bates 3.
- 1:23 p.m., Eric J. Pelofsky emailed Susan Rice (the day before her five Sunday talk show appearances): "On the SVTS [secure video teleconference], Morell noted that these points were not good and he had taken a heavy editing hand to them.... I spoke to Jake immediately after the SVTS and noted that you were doing the Sunday morning shows and would need to be aware of the final posture that these points took..." Exhibit 9 Sept 12, 14-15, 2012 emails to Susan Rice, Bates 41.
- September 16: "Information from those [eyewitness] interviews was shared on a secure video teleconference on the afternoon of the 16th with FBI and other IC officials in Washington." SENATE FLASHING RED RPT at Bates 31.
- Rice's Sunday CBS Face the Nation appearance was immediately preceded by Libyan President Mohamed Yousef Magariaf, who said the attack was "was planned by foreigners, by people who—who entered the country a few months ago, and they were planning this criminal act since their—since their arrival." Exhibit 9 Sept 12, 14-15, 2012 emails to Susan Rice, Bates 66.
- September 18: Responding to question whether "there [was] any rioting in Benghazi reported prior to the attack," Diplomatic Security Agent wrote, "Zip, nothing, nada." Exhibit 8 FLASHING RED: A SPECIAL REPORT... Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Dec 30, 2012, Bates 32.

Endnote 8:
Summary of records sought from (1) the DoD, (2) CIA, (3) State Department, and (4) FBI:

- Records of Secretary Panetta's orders to (1) the 130-man Marine Force Reconnaissance Team in Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily, (2) the two Marine Corps Fleet antiterrorism Security Teams ("FAST") at the Spanish Naval Station Rota, (3) Special Operations Forces in the United States, and (4) the Commanders In-extremis Force in Croatia. Additionally, we have asked for records disclosing the readiness status of assets at those locations, including aircraft, and including Italian aircraft at Sigonella that could have transported the 130-man Marine Team.
- Radio communications from the Compound's Tactical Operations Center, communications from AFRICOM Joint Operations Center, the drone video, closed circuit videos of the Benghazi facilities, and the survivors' accounts of the attacks, including their non-disclosure agreements.
- Records of Panetta's actions and communications for the first 24-hours of notification of the attack, as well similar records for CIA Director David Petraeus, Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell, and Secretary Clinton. For Mrs. Clinton, we've specifically asked for records that would confirm her claim of seeking help from allies.
- Communications of Secretary Clinton's decision to maintain a "permanent constituent post" in Benghazi, specifically including the extent to which the Benghazi facilities in any way facilitated the existence and operations of the CIA Annex. Other records regarding Mrs. Clinton include those that concern her recommendations to support those seeking to oust forces loyal to the government of Bashar al-Assad, her position on U.S. support for those seeking to oust forces loyal to Colonel Gaddafi, as well as her correspondence regarding the prepositioning of military assets off the coast of Tripoli October 2011 when she visited Libya.
- The written description of the FBI's jurisdiction in the matter, including the purpose and scope of its probe.
- Records generated on the eve of the attacks include Chris Stevens' correspondence on September 10th and 11th, and any analysis or assessment of his September 11th meeting with Turkish Consul General.

- Presumably classified records, including (1) all records of the CIA Annex, including situation reports, records of comings and goings of all persons at the facility, all weapons and cryptographic equipment brought in or out, and information of fallen attackers and their weapons, (2) 2012 intelligence reports and photographs of threats to U.S. personnel in Benghazi from al-Qaida or Ansar al-Shariah build-up, (3) intelligence community records shared with Congress regarding collection and distribution of arms in Libya, as well as CIA transport of arms to Syrian rebel forces, and (4) Deputy National Security Adviser for Homeland Security and Counter-terrorism John Brennan's recommendations regarding Gaddafi's overthrow.
- 2007 through 2012 records of meetings between Chris Stevens or any other Tripoli Embassy officials and one or more of nine named individuals, including (1) a commander of the Libyan Ansar al-Shariah militia group, (2) the Chairman of the Libyan National Transitional Council, (3) the Interim Prime Minister of Libya, (4) a supporter of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood and veteran jihad fighter and perhaps the head of al-Qaeda in Libya, and five other individuals.

Endnote 25:
Examples of intelligence community "analytic reports warning of... intent to strike US and Western facilities and personnel in Libya." Exhibit 6 Report of Senate Select Committee on Intelligence REVIEW OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS... Jan 15, 2014, Bates 20.

"The RSO in Libya compiled a list of 234 security incidents in Libya between June 2011 and July 2012, 50 of which took place in Benghazi." Exhibit 8 FLASHING RED: A SPECIAL REPORT... Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Dec 30, 2012, Bates 30.

- April 6, 2012: "A gelatina bomb (traditional homemade explosive device used for fishing) is thrown over the SMC [Special Mission Compound] north wall." Exhibit 32 State Dept Report of Accountability Review Board, Dec 19, 2012, Bates 110.
- May 22, 2012: "The Benghazi International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) building struck by rocket propelled grenades (RPGs)." Dec 20 2012. Exhibit 32 State Dept Report of Accountability Review Board, Dec 19, 2012, Bates 110.

- June 1, 2012: "A car bomb exploded outside the Tibesti Hotel, and shortly thereafter a credible threat against the Special Envoy mission prompted Stevens to move to the Annex..." Exhibit 32 State Dept Report of Accountability Review Board, Dec 19, 2012, Bates 110.
- June 6, 2012: "An attack on the SMC [by] IED... blew a large hole in the compound's exterior wall." Exhibit 32 State Dept Report of Accountability Review Board, Dec 19, 2012, Bates 111.
- June 11, 2012: "While in Benghazi, the British Ambassador's convoy is attacked with an RPG and possible AK-47s... the UK closes its mission in Benghazi the following day."
  Exhibit 32 State Dept Report of Accountability Review Board, Dec 19, 2012, Exhibit 32 State Dept Report of Accountability Review Board, Dec 19, 2012, Bates 111.
- June 18, 2012: "Protestors storm the Tunisian consulate in Benghazi." Exhibit 32 State Dept Report of Accountability Review Board, Dec 19, 2012, Bates 111.
- August 6, 2012: "[T]wo special forces team members in a diplomatic vehicle were forced off the road in Tripoli and attacked." Exhibit 14 Gregory Hicks: Benghazi and the Smearing of Chris Stevens," Wall Street Journal Jan 22, 2014, Bates 49.

Endnote 26:
Six requests to the State Department for increased protection:

- March 28, 2012: Cable from then ambassador to Libya Gene Cretz (political officer in Syria from 1986-88, served in Tel Aviv from 1991-94 responsible for Arab affairs including Gaza Strip) asking Secretary Clinton for five Diplomatic Security "agents for 45-60 day rotations in Benghazi;." Exhibit 13 March 28, 2012 Embassy Tripoli cable re security, at Bates 47.
- June 2012: "Ambassador Stevens made a personal plea for an increase in security... [emailing] 'would feel much safer if we could keep two MSD teams with us...'" in Benghazi. Exhibit 7 Report of Republican Majority of five House committees INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT...April 23, 2013, Bates 27.
- July 9, 2012: "Embassy Tripoli requests continued TDY security support for an additional 60-days, through mid-September 2012." Cable from Embassy Tripoli to State Dept. Exhibit 12 July 9, 2012 Embassy Tripoli cable re security, Bates 46.

- August 2, 2012: Embassy Tripoli cabled the State Department asking for 11 bodyguards describing "security conditions in Libya [as]... unpredictable... and violent." Exhibit 11 Aug 2, 2012 Embassy Tripoli cable re security, Bates 45.
- August 8, 2012: Embassy Tripoli wrote to State, "a series of violent incidents has dominated the political landscape," and described this violence as "targeted and discriminate attacks." Cable re "The Guns of August: security in eastern Libya" Exhibit 38.
- August 16, 2012: Benghazi consulate wrote the state department that it could "not withstand a sustained attack." Exhibit 6 Report of Senate Select Committee on Intelligence REVIEW OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS... Jan 15, 2014, Bates 24.

Endnote 28:
Six Congressional Reports:

- December 30, 2012, FLASHING RED: A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK AT BENGHAZI, issued by both parties U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

  Fifty security incidents in Benghazi was a "flashing red" warning, according to the Republican report. Failing to suspend or abandon the Benghazi facilities was a "grievous mistake." Key findings include State Department initial knowledge that the attack was preplanned and the absence of any protest, at least by September 15th. Report faults IC and open source reports for the account of a protest in Benghazi.

- April 23, 2013, INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 TERRORIST ATTACKS IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA, issued by Republican Majority of five House committees

  On "the same day and prior to" Ambassador Rice's talk show appearances, "a senior official on the ground in Libya informed senior leaders at the State Department that there was no demonstration prior to the attack." The Administration had altered its talking points to "remove references to the likely participation of Islamic extremists." The President and Secretary Clinton for appeared in a $70,000 advertisement campaign in Pakistan disavowing the YouTube

video. Also, "State Department personnel have testified that funding was not a reason for the drawdown of security levels in Benghazi."

- September 16, 2013, BENGHAZI ATTACKS: INVESTIGATIVE UPDATE INTERIM REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD, issued by Republican Majority of Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

  Under Secretary of Management at the Department of State Ambassador Kennedy personally oversaw the number staff at any time at the Special Mission Compound, decided to discontinue the Security Support Team, and approved the extension of the facility "as is."

  All four State Department officials who were placed on administrative leave failed to receive due process from the State Department, three of whom were not permitted to see the charges against them for six months because the information was classified. Hillary Clinton selected four of the five Accountability Review Board members, Undersecretary Kennedy oversaw the selection of ARB staff, and the ARB failed to interview Clinton. Admiral Mullen gave Cheryl Mills a friendly "heads up" that Charlene Lamb would not be a good witness before Congress.

- January 15, 2014, REVIEW OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON U.S. FACILITIES IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA, SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2012, TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL VIEWS," issued by U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

  The bipartisan report holds the State Department responsible for inadequate security at the Mission in the face of an increased violence, and the tragedy "preventable." There were three diplomatic Security agents assigned to the Mission, whereas nine security officers were assigned at the CIA Annex. Itemization of security improvements at the CIA Annex is redacted, while the Mission failed to keep all surveillance cameras running or install its new cameras. The attacks were in three distinct phases, with probing attacks at the CIA Annex between 11:56 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

  This Report details the August 15, 2012 Emergency Action Committee Report and its corresponding classified cable: "A CIA officer 'briefed the EAC on the location of approximately ten Islamist militias and AQ training camps within Benghazi.'" "Individuals affiliated with terrorist groups, including AQIM, Ansar al- Sharia, AQAP, and the Mohammad Jamal Network, participated in the September 11, 2012, attacks." The FBI and CIA reviewed the closed circuit television video

from the Mission on September 18, 2012, and FBI intelligence reports regarding the interviews of the survivors were disseminated on September 20, 2012.

- February 7, 2014, BENGHAZI: WHERE IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTABILITY? issued by Republican Majority of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Secretary Clinton was aware of the security problems in Libya and should have acted accordingly, according to this Republican report. Of the four reinstated employees who had been placed on leave (Charlene Lamb, Scott Bultrowicz, Ray Maxwell, and Eric Boswell), two retired with full benefits, and the other two have been reassigned to positions with commensurate pay and benefits. Elizabeth Dibble, Jake Sullivan, and Victoria Nuland, were all promoted. Patrick Kennedy was unaccountable, even after (1) "approv[ing] a one-year extension of the Benghazi SMC in December 2011," (2) telling "the Defense Department in July 2012 that the State Department would no longer need the U.S. military's 16-member SST," and (3) "terminat[ing] Embassy Tripoli's use of a DC-3 aircraft that provided logistical support to the SST" on May 3.

- February 10, 2014, MAJORITY INTERIM REPORT: BENGHAZI INVESTIGATION UPDATE, issued by Republican Majority of House Armed Services Committee

  While this Republican report declares that there was no "stand down" order given and that the military acted appropriately given the resources available, the Committee questions the posture of military forces. Why didn't the Administration prioritize a violent Libya among the ongoing threats"? Why was the Commander's in Extremis Force training on September 11th? Why didn't General Ham know that the CIA had a facility in Benghazi?

  The State Department was ultimately responsible for embassy security. The attack was "carefully planned," with a "scouted...scene beforehand."

Endnote 30:
CCB FOIA Request to CIA, State, and FBI, excerpt:

All notes, memoranda, and correspondence generated between January of 2007 and September 11, 2012, regarding meetings between Christopher Stevens or any other Tripoli Embassy official, and one or more of the following individuals:

- **Ahmed Abu Khattala**, a commander of the Libyan Ansar al-Shariah militia group
- **Mustafa Abdul Jalil**, Chairman of the Libyan National Transitional Council from 5 March 2011-8 August 2012
- **Mahmoud Jibril**, Interim Prime Minister of Libya and Chair of the Executive Board of the National Transitional Council from March-23 October 2011
- **Wissam bin Hamid**, a Libya Shield Brigade commander, supporter of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood Justice & Construction Party, and veteran jihad fighter of Iraq & Afghanistan, who provided security for US representatives in Benghazi and was tentatively identified by the Library of Congress as the head of al-Qa'eda in Libya
- **Abdelhakim Belhadj** (aka Abdallah al Sadeq), veteran jihad fighter of Iraq & Afghanistan, commander of the AQ franchise militia, Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) (aka Libyan Islamic Movement for Change), post-revolution military commander of Tripoli, and Libyan delegation leader to the Syrian Free Army in late 2011
- **Ismael al-Sallabi** (brother of Ali), commander of the Al-Qa'eda-linked al-Sahati Brigade during the revolution, and Benghazi Military Council commander afterwards, close ally of Abdelhakim Belhadj and Mustafa Jalil
- **Ali al-Sallabi** (brother of Ismael), called the 'spiritual leader' of the Libyan revolution, Muslim Brotherhood links, led effort with Seif al-Qaddafi and US Embassy Tripoli to gain release of jihadi detainees from Libyan jails
- **Mohammad al-Sallabi**, father of Ali and Ismael, among the founders of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood in the 1960s
- **Abu Sufian bin Qumu**, veteran jihad fighter in Afghanistan from Derna, Libya, captured in 2001, detained at GITMO, sent back to Libyan jail, released in 2010, led jihad vs Qaddafi in 2011, and led Benghazi Mission attack in Sep 2012.

Endnote 31:
20 Accuracy in Media articles on Benghazi:

- "MSNBC Seeks to Discredit Benghazi Investigation," *Accuracy in Media*, May 25, 2014, R. Aronoff.
- "Infiltration of the U.S. Government, Part One," *Accuracy in Media*, May 5, 2014, C. Kincaid.
- "Media Hits and Misses Covering Benghazi Press Conference," *Accuracy in Media*, April 28, 2014, R. Aronoff.
- "Citizens' Commission on Benghazi Releases Interim Report," *Accuracy in Media*, April 24, 2014.
- "Material Support to Terrorism: The Case of Libya," *Accuracy in Media*, April 22, 2014, C. Lopez.
- "Protecting Hillary Trumps Benghazi Investigation," *Accuracy in Media*, March 31, 2014, B. Stotts.
- "Does Navy Map Alter the Benghazi Narrative?" *Accuracy in Media*, Feb 16, 2014, R. Aronoff.
- "Obama and His Media Loyalists Still Spinning Benghazi," *Accuracy in Media*, Feb 6, 2014, R. Aronoff.
- "Blaming the Victim in Benghazigate," *Accuracy in Media*, Jan 22, 2014, R. Aronoff.
- "Further Proof That Obama Knew the Truth About Benghazi," *Accuracy in Media*, Jan 14, 2014, R. Aronoff and B. Stotts.
- "Conservative Leaders Call on Speaker Boehner: Form a Select Committee on Benghazi," *Accuracy in Media*, Jan 7, 2014, R. Aronoff.
- "New York Times Attempts to Blur Benghazi Scandal," *Accuracy in Media*, December 31, 2013, R. Aronoff and B. Stotts.
- "McClatchy Reporter Changes Tune on Benghazi," *Accuracy in Media*, December 18, 2013, B. Stotts.
- "CBS in Damage Control Over Error-Filled Benghazi Report," *Accuracy in Media*, November 8, 2013, R. Aronoff.
- "'60 Minutes' Reveals Little New in Benghazi Exposé," *Accuracy in Media*, Oct 31, 2013, R. Aronoff.
- "The Left's Continued Assault on the Truth About Benghazi," *Accuracy in Media*, October 28, 2013, R. Aronoff.
- "Media Coverage of Benghazi Leans Toward Political Theater," *Accuracy in Media*, October 4, 2013, B. Stotts.
- "Media Embrace Obama's Controversial Picks for National Security Team," *Accuracy in Media*, June 6, 2013. R. Aronoff.

- "The MSM and Benghazi: Will Their Coverage Harm Obama Administration?," *Accuracy in Media*, May 10, 2013, R. Radosh.
- "Shameful Media Coverage of Benghazi Scandal and Cover-up," *Accuracy in Media*, November 6, 2012, R. Aronoff.

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MAY 20, 2014 CCB SUBMISSION TO SELECT COMMITTEE:

Citizens' Commission on Benghazi
Executive Summary & Key Findings
For Rep. Trey Gowdy & the U.S. House of
Representatives Select Committee on Benghazi
(3 Pages)

Questions for the Select Committee on Benghazi
Citizens' Commission on Benghazi
(3 Pages)

Benghazi: A Timeline
The Citizens' Commission on Benghazi
(14 Pages)

ACCURACY IN MEDIA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
(4 Pages)

EXHIBITS Bates

Exhibit 1 Testimony of Michael Morell, former acting director and Deputy Director CIA, written statement, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence April 2, 2014, excerpt 1-3

Exhibit 2
Gregory Hicks testimony
Benghazi: Exposing Failure and Recognizing Courage
Hearing Before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
House of Representatives
May 8, 2013, excerpt. 4-7

Exhibit 3
Secretary Clinton testimony
Terrorist Attack in Benghazi:
The Secretary of State's View
Hearing Before the Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
January 23, 2013, excerpt. 8-13

Exhibit 4
General Ham testimony,
House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
June 26, 2013, excerpt. 14-15

Exhibit 5 White House emails re talking points, Sept 14, 2012. 16-17

Exhibit 6
Report of Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
REVIEW OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS... Jan 15, 2014, excerpt. 18-24

Exhibit 7
Report of Republican Majority of five House committees
INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT...April 23, 2013, excerpt 25-28

Exhibit 8
FLASHING RED: A SPECIAL REPORT... Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Dec 30, 2012, excerpt. 29-32

Exhibit 9 Sept 12, 14-15, 2012 emails to Susan Rice, released under FOIA court order FOIA to Judicial Watch 33-43

Exhibit 11 Aug 2, 2012 Embassy Tripoli cable re security 45

Exhibit 12 July 9, 2012 Embassy Tripoli cable re security. 46

Exhibit 13 March 28, 2012 Embassy Tripoli cable re security 47

Exhibit 14 "Gregory Hicks: Benghazi and the Smearing of Chris Stevens," Wall Street Journal Jan 22, 2014. 48-51

Exhibit 15
Secretary Panetta and General Ham testimony, Hearing to Receive Testimony on Department of Defense's Response to the Attack on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, and the findings of its Internal Review Following the Attack February 7. excerpt. 52-54

Exhibit 16
"Panetta Strongly Condemns Benghazi Attack," American Forces Press Service, C. Pellerin, Sept 12, 2012 55-56

Exhibit 17
Remarks by President, Office of White House Press Secretary, Sept 12, 2012 57-58

Exhibit 18
Statement by Secretary Clinton, Sept 11, 2012 59

Exhibit 19
Press briefing Jay Carney, Sep 18, 2012 60-61

Exhibit 20
Spokesperson Victoria Nuland
Press Briefing, Sept 17, 2012 62-63

Exhibit 21
"Face the Nation" transcript,
Sept 16, 2012 Libyan Pres. Magariaf, Amb.
Rice and Sen. McCain 64-67

Exhibit 22
"No protest before Benghazi attack, wounded Libyan
guard says," McClatchy Newspapers, A. Youssef and
S. Ali Zway, Sept 13, 2012 68-70

Exhibit 24
"Obama: Extremists used video as
'excuse' to Attack," BigStory.org,
K. Thomas, Sept 20, 2012 72-74

Exhibit 25
Press Briefing by Press Secretary
Jay Carney, Sept 19, 2012 75-76

Exhibit 26
State Dept emails Sept 11, 2012,
4:05 and 4:54 p.m. 77-79

Exhibit 27
Emails Victoria Nuland,
Patrick Kennedy etc, Sept 11 and 12, 2012 80-83

Exhibit 28
Action Memo for Under Secretary
Kennedy, Dec 27, 2011 84-87

Exhibit 29
UN Security Counsel Final Report of
Panel of Experts, Feb 15, 2014 88-90

Exhibit 30
Press briefing Jay Carney, Sept 13, 2012. 91-96

Exhibit 31
Press briefing Jay Carney
Sept 14, 2012. 97-108

Exhibit 32
State Dept Report of Accountability
Review Board, Dec 19, 2012 (excerpt) 109-111

Exhibit 33
"Ex-CIA chief Petraeus testifies Benghazi attack was
al Qaeda-linked terrorism," Nov 16, 2012, *CNN Wire*. 112-115

Exhibit 34 "'This Week' Transcript: U.S. Ambassador to the
United Nations Susan Rice," *ABC News*, Sept 16, 2012. 116-130

Exhibit 35 "Amb. Susan Rice, Rep. Mike Rogers discuss violence
against Americans in the Middle East," *Fox News*, Sept 16, 2012 131-148

Exhibit 36 "Benjamin Netanyahu, Susan Rice, Keith Ellison,
Peter King, Bob Woodward, Jeffrey Goldberg,," *NBC News*,
Sept 16, 2012. 149-162

Exhibit 37 "State of the Union with Candy Crowley,"
CNN Sept 16, 2012. 163-170

Exhibit 38
Aug 8, 2012 Cable from Embassy Tripoli to Wash DC State
Dept, "Re The Guns of August Security in eastern Libya". 171-172

Citizens' Commission on Benghazi
Executive Summary & Key Findings
For Rep. Trey Gowdy & the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Benghazi
20 May 2014

Executive Summary

The Citizens' Commission on Benghazi (CCB) formed in 2013 under the leadership of Roger Aronoff, editor of Accuracy in Media (AIM), a media watchdog group. We were concerned that the various official U.S. government (USG) investigations – whether the State Department's Accountability Review Board (ARB) or the several congressional committee efforts – were not pursuing the evidence as aggressively or in as organized a manner as necessary to get to the bottom of U.S. failures in Benghazi. We at the CCB believe those senior USG officials who were derelict in their professional responsibilities, who provided duplicitous testimony to Congress, and who deliberately lied to the American public must be held to account by name and face the full weight of legal consequences for their behavior.

In the months since our first press conference in September 2013, at which Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) spoke strongly for the formation of a congressional Select Committee to coordinate and unify the investigation, we have pursued an independent citizens' investigation of what happened regarding Benghazi and Libya in the time before, during, and after the attacks of 11 September 2012. We are convinced that a comprehensive approach is the only way to understand why certain decisions were taken and not taken that might have resulted in lives saved and injuries avoided on the night of the attacks itself. Additionally, a number of individuals have approached the CCB with information related to events in Libya that has not been made public by any other investigation to date. Some of these contacts have stated their readiness to be introduced to the Select Committee to provide their evidence in person, and the CCB is prepared to effect such introductions as convenient and desired.

The CCB's findings fall into several general topic categories: 1) official USG involvement in providing material support to known terrorists affiliated with the Libyan al-Qa'eda and Muslim Brotherhood; 2) USG refusal to respond to Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi's request for talks about abdication and exile; 3) USG failure to prepare adequately for the likelihood of terror attack against our Benghazi mission by al-Qa'eda-linked militias despite plentiful advance indicators and warning; 4) White House and administration failure to direct an urgent military response to the 11 September 2012 attack on the sovereign territory of our diplomatic mission or even attempt to come to the aid of besieged American defenders at our Benghazi mission; and 5) a White House-directed campaign of deliberate deception to blame protests about a YouTube video for the Benghazi attacks.

Details of our Key Findings and Sources follow. An extensive Timeline of Events and CCB member biographic summaries are provided separately.

Key Findings

- **Finding:** Senior levels of the Obama administration and U.S. Intelligence Community organized a "Zero Footprint" campaign of material support to known affiliates of Libyan al-Qa'eda militias, including direct facilitation of the delivery of weapons to them.
    - Source: American citizen FBI Confidential Informant with direct access
    - Source: Retired USN Rear Admiral businessman with direct access
    - Source: American citizen arms dealer with direct access, currently under sealed indictment by the Department of Justice
    - Source: Forensic investigation on shell casings, mortar fragments, and any weapons or weapons parts recovered from the Special Mission Compound and CIA Annex (subject of CCB FOIA request)

- **Finding:** Muammar Qaddafi sought a 72-hr. white flag of truce in March 2011 to discuss abdication and exile. His officials were in direct telephonic communication with AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, but Gen. Carter Ham was forced to cut off these discussions on orders from the highest levels of the Obama administration.
    - Source: Retired USN Rear Admiral who was directly involved in the telephonic communications between Stuttgart, Germany and Tripoli, Libya

- **Finding:** Senior members of the U.S. administration in the Department of Defense, Department of State, and Intelligence Community knew that al-Qa'eda-affiliated militias in Benghazi repeatedly attacked Western facilities and targets (including our own) through 2012. Al-Qa'eda often marks key dates like 9/11 with more attacks and Ayman al-Zawahiri issued an explicit 10 September 2012 video call to attack Americans in Libya. And yet, the Dept. of State had refused repeated AMEMB Tripoli requests to provide adequate security to our Benghazi mission, methodically stripped away security that had been assigned there previously, and allowed Ambassador Stevens to visit Benghazi on 11 September without adequate security.
    - Source: Active duty Special Forces commander of the Libyan Site Security Team
    - Source: Congressional testimony, congressional investigation committee reports, and the open source record

- **Finding**: Even though the White House, Intelligence Community, Pentagon and all major combatant commands knew within minutes that the 11 September 2012 attack on our Benghazi mission was a military-style terrorist assault, there was no military response or even an attempted response. U.S. military assets were available both in-country and in multiple locations around the Western Mediterranean and undoubtedly had sprung to the highest level of readiness immediately upon receipt of the attack reports. Yet, over the 7+-hr. duration of the attack, no order was given for a U.S. military response.

- Source: Congressional testimony, voluminous congressional committee investigations reports, the open source record
- Source: Active duty Special Forces LTC commander of the Libyan Site Security Team
- Source: Confidential source on the presence of several dozen U.S. Special Operations Command troops in/near Tripoli the night of 11 Sep 2012

- **Finding:** The White House directed a campaign of deliberate deception to blame protests on the "Innocence of Muslims" YouTube video for the Benghazi attacks.

  - Source: Judicial Watch emails
  - Sources: Currently-serving FBI agents with direct access to White House directives to the FBI on aligning FBI intelligence reporting with the White House narrative about the YouTube video
  - Source: U.S. citizen with access to information that the National Security Agency (NSA) took possession of a cell phone dropped by an attacker at the CIA Annex and exploited its contents to discover extensive details about the Ansar al-Shariah and other al-Qa'eda network in Benghazi that was responsible for the attacks on our mission
  - Source: A comprehensive CCB report on the elements and sequence of the post-Benghazi attack cover-up

- **Finding**: Sensitive materials (likely communication and cryptographic equipment and possibly documents) were removed from the CIA Annex in Benghazi on 12 September 2012 by Libyans. Consequences may include the killing of a number of Libyans connected to the FBI investigation on Benghazi.

  - Source: Thomas Joscelyn, writing in the *Weekly Standard* on 7 January 2014 and citing "two U.S. intelligence officials," reported that sensitive material was personally couriered to Pakistan (al-Qa'eda) by Faraj al-Chalabi, a known jihadi
  - Source: The *Wall Street Journal* reported on 1 November 2012 that the CIA tasked "local Libyan agents" to "destroy" sensitive materials at the Annex on 12 September 2012
  - Source: According to the 15 January 2014 report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, former FBI Director Robert Mueller testified on 16 May 2013 before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science that "as many as 15 individuals supporting the investigation or otherwise helpful to the United States" had been killed in Benghazi since the September 2012 attack.

Questions for the Select Committee on Benghazi
Citizens' Commission on Benghazi
May 20, 2014

1) Why did the U.S. keep the diplomatic mission open after two attacks earlier in 2012 against the U.S. mission? Why was the U.S. flag the last one flying in Benghazi after the British and the Red Cross had left?

2) Why was Ambassador Stevens' August 16, 2012, request for additional security, in a cable to the U.S. State Department, denied? This cable followed an August 15 "emergency meeting" in Benghazi where diplomatic staff learned that there were 10 jihadist militias and Al Qaeda training camps in the city.

3) Why were military assets not brought to bear during the seven or more hours that this attack lasted, both in the Special Mission Compound and the CIA Annex approximately one mile away, especially given that military commanders did not know when the attacks would end?

4) Were any troops or security personnel ordered to not leave Tripoli, Libya that night to go to Benghazi to participate in any rescue efforts, and if so, why?

5) Where exactly was President Obama that night? With whom did he communicate about the events in Benghazi and what were his orders? Did he communicate with any of our allies with a presence in or near Benghazi and request assistance?

6) Does the failure to bring military assets to bear in a way that might have saved some of those lives constitute a dereliction of duty?

7) What was the origin of the story that the attack in Benghazi was sparked by a spontaneous demonstration related to a video about Muhammad on YouTube, and which had actually sparked demonstrations in Egypt and other countries in the region?

8) Did the various statements from the administration reflect a belief that this was a spontaneous demonstration that got out of hand, or a deliberate, planned terrorist attack with al-Qaeda involvement?

9) Why does the military maintain that they called it a terrorist attack from September 11 onward, yet the administration publicly called it a spontaneous demonstration at the same time?

10) Who prepared then-UN Ambassador Susan Rice's original talking points, and who directed the changes to those talking points, which served to

eliminate the fact that this was an al-Qaeda event, before her five Sunday talk-show appearances on the Sunday after the September 11th attack?

11) Who and what motivated Susan Rice to appear on the five Sunday talk shows?

12) Why do Administration officials continue to insist that they received no contradictory reports regarding a protest in Benghazi when numerous reports have shown that a) there was no protest, and b) that officials learned well before Susan Rice's Sunday appearances that there was no protest?

13) Why did the intelligence community's reports outweigh testimony from those on the ground?

14) Where were Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the JCS General Martin Dempsey during the crisis and what inputs, recommendations and decisions did they make?

15) Why was President Obama not in the Situation Room that night, as Tommy Vietor has recalled?

16) Where were the National Security Advisor, Tom Donilon, and his Deputies, Denis McDonough and John Brennan; and where was Valerie Jarrett during the attacks and more importantly, what inputs and recommendations (if any) did any of them make to Obama?

17) Who made the decision not to deploy the joint/interagency Foreign Emergency Support Team (FEST) and why?

18) Why are so many agencies now requiring that their personnel who were involved in or have access to information regarding the events that took place in Benghazi to sign non-disclosure agreements?

19) Why weren't U.S. Air Force fighter jets scrambled from land bases, such as F-16's based in Aviano, Italy, which is just over 1000 miles and less than 2 hours away? When, and by whom, was the decision made to not employ the air assets?

20) What specifically was the relationship between Official U.S. Envoy and later Ambassador Christopher Stevens with the known al-Qa'eda and Muslim Brotherhood figures, groups, and militias who led the 2011 revolution against Muammar Qaddafi?

21) Who made the decision to allow ships full of weapons from Qatar to pass through the NATO blockade in 2011 to be delivered to Libyan Muslim Brotherhood and/or al-Qa'eda rebels?

22) What exactly was the involvement of the CIA Base of Operations and Special Mission Compound in Benghazi in the outward shipment of weapons during 2012 from Libya destined for the Syrian rebels? With whom were those operations coordinated?

23) Why were DSS agents assigned to the SMC in Benghazi ordered to keep their gear and weapons in a separate building location from where they were posted on the night of 11 September 2012?

Benghazi: A Timeline
The Citizens' Commission on Benghazi
May 2014

Jihadis Out of Afghanistan

- 1989: Afghan War Ended
- Libyan Fighters Return Home
- Early 1990s: Libyan Islamic Fighting Group established
- 1990-1995: Qaddafi Defeated LIFG
- Key LIFG Leadership Moved to Sudan w/Usama Bin Laden (UBL)
- 1993 Lockerbie bombing wrongly blamed on Qaddafi
- 1995: Assassination attempt vs Egyptian President Mubarak
- 1995: LIFG assassination attempt vs Qaddafi w/MI6 support

Enter Blue Mountain Security Solutions Ltd.

- 26 Feb 1999: Blue Mt. Security Solutions Limited incorporated; located in Carmarthenshire, Wales, UK
- Previously known as: Pilgrim Elite Training Ltd. (13 April 2000); Pilgrim Elite Training (10 April 2008)

MI 6 & LIFG

- 1995: Abu Anas al-Libi, other LIFG flee Sudan for UK; UBL returned to Afghanistan
- 1995-2000: LIFG live in UK safehaven
- 2000: Discovery of the Manchester Document
- 2000: LIFG members fled UK back to Afghanistan

9/11 Attacks & Aftermath

- September 11, 2001
- Post 9/11: some LIFG picked up, detained
- 2002 (?): Abu Sufian bin Qumu captured, sent to GITMO
- 2004: Abu Anas al-Libi & Abdelhakim Belhadj captured
- Mid-2000s: GITMO detainees released to home countries

- 2005: Qaddaffi pressured by US Emb Tripoli & son Seif to begin "reconciliation process"
- 2005: LIFG/Muslim Brotherhood (MB) cleric Ali Mohammad Al-Sallabi is key mediator
- 2008:Christopher Stevens appointed DCM Tripoli, Libya
- 2008-10: Key LIFG leadership released from Libyan prisons
- 2008: Abdelhakim Belhadj released from jail
- Abu Sufian bin Qumu returns to Derna

Islamic Uprising Begins

- 15 Feb 2011: Mubarak fell, MB took power
- 17 Feb 2011: Libyan revolt began
- 21 Feb 2011: Yousef al-Qaradawi *fatwa* to kill Qaddafi
- 25 Feb 2011: USEMB Tripoli Econ Counselor John Godfrey email/phone SJ re: exile for Qaddafi
- Last week Feb 2011: SJ contacted Imad Saiss, Q's financier, Gen. Yousef Orbri, Security Chief, & Chief of Staff

Enter Marc Turi

- Last week Feb 2011: Marc Turi rec'd expression of interest to supply Libyan rebels from – [Unknown]
- Late Feb 2011: Gen. Fatah Younis defected to rebels
- Early Mar 2011: MT began to work DoS, USEMB Tripoli contacted to offer munitions for Libyan rebels
- 12 Mar 2011: Michael Kostiw, Staff Director, Senate Armed Services Committee & Sen. John McCain's staff, contacted David Manners
- Kostiw told DM, MT Sen. McCain wanted personal cell phone #s for Gen. Younis, Falah Saloma, Xenois. MT gave them to him
- 12 Mar 2011: MT 1st application to DoS for license to broker weapons to Libyan rebels (#2 request to correct error)

U.S. Throws in with Al-Qa'eda & Muslim Brotherhood

- 14 Mar 2011: SecState Hillary Clinton met w/Mahmoud Jibril in Paris
- 15 Mar 2011: Mustafa Jalil flew out of Libya w/120 rebel leaders

- 16 March 2011: French President ordered his fighter jets to bomb Gaddafi's convoys in advance of UN resolution
- 17 Mar 2011: UNSC Resolution 1973 for "No Fly Zone" to protect civilians
- 18 Mar 2011: SecState Hillary Clinton in London announced USG support to TNC rebels, Mustafa Jalil
- 18 Mar 2011: Christopher Stevens, in London w/SecState Clinton, named USG Liaison to Libyan rebels
- 19 Mar 2011: US-NATO bombing began–'Operation Freedom Falcon' under AFRICOM Gen. Ham
- US Navy fired 220 Tomahawk missiles vs Qaddafi forces over course of conflict

Truce Talks

- 20 Mar 2011: SJ, Adm. Chuck Kubic begin email, telephone contact between Tripoli & AFRICOM Stuttgart re: white flag of truce
- 20-21 Mar 2011: Qaddafi expressed interest in truce, possible abdication & exile; pulled forces back as sign of 'good faith'
- Adm. CK called LTC Brian Linvill, former Tripoli Emb. MILATT office, now w/AFRICOM Stuttgart
- Maj. Mark Colbursum, USEMB Rabat also in contact loop
- 21 Mar 2011: SJ, LTC Linvill, Imad Saiss: 'Gen. Ham has no green light'
- Qaddafi office called LTC Linvill, promised military pull-back fm cities
- 21 Mar 2011 (?): Gen. Ham on U.S. TV noted Q pullback
- 21-22 Mar 2011: Talks ended because Gen. Ham gets no permission to proceed
- Late Mar 2011: Responsibility for U.S. military support to Libyan rebels transferred from AFRICOM to EUCOM/NATO
- 'Operation ***United Protector***'??
- 24 Mar 2011: ***Qaddafi provided 'intelligence report' on rebel opposition to U.S. intelligence & WH***??

Marc Turi Stymied, But Weapons Flow Anyway

- 28 Mar 2011: Qatar recognized Libyan rebels–Transitional National Council (TNC)

- 29 Mar 2011: MT submitted request #3 & #4 to DoS--to supply weapons to Qatar
- Switch to Qatar MT's own idea–no one else suggested it
- Warehouse Distribution Agreement
- **29 March 2011: Pres. Obama signed Presidential Finding for covert ops support to Libyan rebels**
- 30 Mar 2011: NYT, "fierce debate on arming Libyan rebels"
- 31 Mar 2011: NATO took control of all military ops in Libya; all ships subject to inspection
- 1st week Apr 2011: MT submitted docs to Asst. Scty. State Don Yamomoto to help expedite process
- 6 Apr 2011: MT emailed CS re: earlier 1st/2nd (corrected) request to supply rebels
- Early April 2011: MT sought contacts in Qatar MD but 'unsuccessful'
- 22 Apr 2011: Sen. John McCain visited Benghazi rebels together w/Chris Stevens–called them "my heroes"
- 5 May 2011: DoS approved MT's request to supply weapons to Qatar as end user
- 13 Jun 2011: MT request to DoS to broker weapons/ammo to UAE end user
- 15 July 2011: USG formally recognized TNC
- 28 July 2011: ***Gen. Younis killed by Abu Khattala on orders of Mustafa Jalil after finding out MB-Jalil weapons sale to Qaddafi*** **????**

DoD/DHS Come After Marc Turi

- 26 Jul 2011: DoD/DHS **raided MT** home, Scottsdale, AZ
- 27 July 2011: MT made 3rd application for license to supply weapons to Libyan TNC

Curt Weldon's Libya Trip

- 4-6 Aug 2011: Former Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA) visited Tripoli–'private mission' to ask Qaddafi step aside–Q wouldn't see him–too late
- Curt.Weldon@yahoo.com--Jenkins Hill Int'l.--1 (484) 340-9944
- After war, CW contacted MT for his Libya & UAE contacts

- Trip paid for by 2 TX oil lobbyists: Houston attorney Brian Ettinger (former aide to then-Sen. Joe Biden) **& former Bush aide Steve Payne, both of Worldwide Strategic Energy????**

Marc Turi Still Trying Through Channels

- Late Aug 2011: 3rd application for weapons to Libyan TNC denied
- Aug 2011: all MT seized equipment ret'd in Starbucks parking lot
- 21 Sep 2011: Broker request to DoS for UAE denied
- 20 Oct 2011: Qaddafi killed
- Oct 2011: TNC took command
- 1 Nov 2011: Black flag of Islamic jihad spotted flying over Benghazi courthouse
- Nov 2011: Abdelhakim Belhadj led Libyan delegation to meet Syrian Free Army (SFA) & offer fighters, weapons

Aegis Defense Services

- Nov 2011-Dec 2012: **Kristi M. Rogers founded/led Aegis Defense Services** LLC; registered Delaware, hqs. in Arlington, VA
- Aegis won **5-yr., $10b contract under DoS Worldwide Protective Services (WPS) program**
- Sources: http://www.manatt.com/KristiRogers.aspx & www.linkedin.com/pub/**kristi-rogers**/4/658/aa3
- Nov 2011: ***Blue Mt. 'joined forces' w/ 'local outfit'–Eclipse Group, Dewey Clarridge*** **??????**
- Dec 2011: ***Blue Mt. security firm rec'd a 'no-objection certificate' from new Libyan govt.*** **??**
- "Already had been working w/Western companies in Libya 'for several months'"
- Source: http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2011/12/09/Security-firms-hustle-in-lawless-Libya/UPI-75871323450621

Benghazi Security Deteriorates

- Jan 2012: ***SJ????*** joined UAE delegation to Tripoli to collect $1 billion for weapons delivered
- Jan 2012: SJ learned from Mazen Ramadan re: weapons diversion, MB pocketing money, July 2011 execution of ***Gen. Younis***
- March 2012: DoS contract for local guard services, Benghazi took effect
- **28 Mar 2012: U.S. Amb. Cretz sent cable to SecState Clinton requesting additional security assets**
- **6 Apr 2012: IED thrown over SMC wall**
- **19 Apr 2012: DoS cable to Amb. Cretz signed by SecState Clinton refused request for more security**
- **3 May 2012: DoS signed security contract w/Blue Mountain for $783,284**
- **3 May 2012: DoS turned down request from Amb. security team for DC-3 airplane**
- **Sometime in 2012: Blue Mt. sub-contracted Amb. Compound security to 17 February Martyrs Brigade**
- **May 2012: CK & SJ visited Benghazi**
- **22 May 2012: International Red Cross hit by 2 RPGs**
- **22 May 2012: J. Christopher Stevens appointed Ambassador to Libya**
- **1 June 2012: Car bomb exploded outside hotel where UK Amb staying**
- **6 Jun 2012: IED blew hole in SMC outer perimeter wall**
- **7 Jun 2012: Stevens presented credentials in Tripoli**
- **7 Jun 2012: Amb. Stevens requested keep 2 mobile security teams for personal protection, but DoS refused request**
- **10 Jun 2012: UK Amb convoy hit by RPG attack**
- **10 Jun 2012: AQ staged open rally in Benghazi**
- **15 Jun 2012: DoS official Charlene Lamb told RSO Nordstrom Site Security Team (SST) contract would not be renewed**
- **17 Jun 2012: UK closed its Benghazi consulate**
- **17 Jun 2012: International Red Cross closed Benghazi office**
- **19 Jun 2012: Tunisian consulate stormed by Ansar al-Shariah**
- **22 Jun 2012: Amb. Stevens warned 'extremist groups' operating openly in Benghazi, and in Libya as a whole**

Blind Sheikh Release Campaign & a YouTube Video

- **21 Jun 2012: Hani Nour Eldin, Gama'at al-Islamiyya official/Egyptian MP, met in WDC w/NSC Denis McDonough to request release of Blind Sheikh**
- **29 Jun 2012: Morsi pledged to work for release of Blind Sheikh**
- **2 Jul 2012: "Innocence of Muslims" 14 min. trailer posted to YouTube by Sam Bacile**
- **Intent: arouse anti-Islam protests by 11 Sep 2012**

Benghazi Methodically Stripped of Security

- 6 Jul 2012: DoS official Lamb demanded Tripoli not make formal request for SST extension or MSD security team
- 9 Jul 2012: USEMB Tripoli requested cont'd security support for 60 days, but rec'd no reply from DoS
- 21 Jul 2012: RSO Nordstrom warned DoS risk to U.S. officials in Libya is "HIGH"
- 2 Aug 2012: Amb Stevens requested 11 additional personal security bodyguards--turned down
- 5 Aug 2012: DoS ordered removal of Amb. Stevens' 16-man SST
- 8 Aug 2012: 11 of 16 members of SST departed Libya
- 15 Aug 2012: USEMB Tripoli emergency meeting on security
- 16 Aug 2012: Amb. Stevens/RSO sent cable to DoS, said SMC could not withstand coordinated assault
- Late Aug 2012: DoS withdrew 16-man Site Security Team under LTC Andrew Wood over Embassy & LTC Wood objections
- AFRICOM offered additional security, but Stevens turned it down as DoS had refused all his requests

Competing Narratives: Blind Sheikh & 'Innocence of Muslims'

- **2 Aug 2012: Egypt made formal request that U.S. release Blind Sheikh**
- **30 Aug 2012: Gama'at al-Islamiyya called for 11 Sep 2012 protests at USEMB Cairo**

- **4 Sep 2012: Film producer phoned al-Youm al Sabaa (7th Day) WDC Coptic daily; emailed copy of film trailer**
- **6 Sep 2012: Gamel Girgis wrote 3-para article, called film 'shocking'**
- **8 Sep 2012: Gama'at al-Islamiyya & EIJ joint statement threatening burn USEMB Cairo unless Blind Sheikh released**
- **8 Sep 2012: Libyan officials met w/Amb. compound reps–said unable to control militias**
- **9 Sep 2012: Arabic-language forum posted statement inciting Egyptians target USEMB Cairo re: Blind Sheikh release**
- **9 Sep 2012: Egyptian TV host aired clip of film, invited outrage**
- **9 Sep 2012: Al-Azhar Mufti condemned clip for 'insulting the prophet'**
- **9 Sep 2012: Facebook pages appeared, calling for 9/11 protests; callers to USEMB Cairo (still clueless re: video)**
- **10 Sep 2012: Ayman al-Zawahiri videotape called for Libyan revenge for June 2012 CIA drone killing of Abu Yahiya al-Libi in Afghan-Pakistan region**

10 September 2012

- **10 Sep 2012: Amb. Chris Stevens traveled from Tripoli to Benghazi, along with Sean Smith and 5 DSS officers**

11 September 2012

- 11 Sep 2012: Amb. Stevens warned DoS via cable re: deteriorating security situation in Benghazi
- 11 Sep 2012: CNN Nic Robertson outside USEMB Cairo interviewing protesters, Mohamed al-Zawahiri re: Blind Sheikh
- 11 Sep 2012, later: CNN began to push film narrative
- 11 Sep 2012 (0643): Sean Smith saw uniformed Libyan police in bldg. across street taking photos of compound
- ***(12:54:09 PM) vile_rat:*** *assuming we don't die tonight. We saw one of our 'police' that guard the compound taking pictures*
- 11 Sep 2012: Anti-film protests broke out in Cairo, other places
- 11 Sep 2012: Cairo Emb perimeter breached, US flag torn down/burned; black jihad flag raised in its place

- 11 Sep 2012: Cairo Emb tweeted apologies for film
- 11 Sep 2012 (1930-2030): Turkish Consul General Akin dinner mtng w/Amb. Stevens
- 11 Sep 2012 (NLT 2000): Ansar al-Shariah forces set up cordon
- **11 Sep 2012 (NLT 2000): Neighbors told AP they could not move in or out of neighborhood after this time**
- 11 Sep 2012 (ca 2000***?): Brits dropped off equipment at Amb. compound***
- 11 Sep 2012 (ca 2030): Turkish ConGen departed SMC, left neighborhood, no problem, no warning to Amb. Stevens
- 11 Sep 2012 (ca 2100): Amb. Stevens & Sean Smith retire for evening
- 11 Sep 2012 (2140): attackers w/rifles, RPGs stormed Amb. Compound
- 11 Sep 2012 (2140): Amb. Stevens phoned DCM Greg Hicks at USEMB Tripoli to tell him "We're being attacked"
- 11 Sep 2012 (1600 EST/2200 LT): Unarmed Predator drone diverted from Derna mission by RADM Landolt (AFRICOM J-3, Director of Operations)
- **11 Sep 2012 (4:22 p.m. 1622 Washington time EST): SecDef Panetta, Chm JCS Gen. Dempsey, AFRICOM CMDR Ham informed of attack**
- 11 Sep **2012 (10:30 p.m. Benghazi time 2330 LT):** Glenn Doherty, 2 members SST, 2 USMC departed Tripoli in leased C-130
- 11 Sep 2012 (1654 **p.m.** EST): DoS email said firing at SMC stopped
- 11 Sep 2012 (1700 **p.m.** EST): Panetta, Dempsey met BHO, VP Biden at WH
- 11 Sep 2012: Pentagon, combatant commands all learned of "terrorist attack"
- 11 Sep 2012 (1700 **p.m.** EST / 2300 **p.m.** LT): Drone arrives overhead Benghazi–video coverage from this point onward
- 11 Sep 2012 (1700 **p.m.** EST/2300 **p.m.** LT): SMC abandoned
- 11 Sep 2012 (1740 **p.m.** EST): UnderSecState Patrick Kennedy refused request sent FEST to Libya
- 11 Sep 2012 (1807 **p.m.** EST): DoS Ops Center email to WH, Pentagon, FBI re: Ansar al-Shariah claim of credit on FB, Twitter
- 11 Sep 2012 (1900-2000 **p.m.** EST): Pres. Obama spoke w/Israeli PM Netanyahu about a political issue

- 11 Sep 2012, ca 2000 **p.m.** EST: DCM Greg Hicks spoke by phone w/SecState Clinton & advisors
- Hicks told them it was a terrorist attack, video was a "non-event" in Libya
- 11 Sep 2012, ca 2200 **p.m.** EST: SecState Clinton on phone w/BHO

11 Sep 2012, shortly after 2200 **p.m.** EST: DoS press release blamed video for Benghazi attack

12 September 2012

- 12 Sep 2012 (0100 LT): Amb. Stevens' body found at SMC by Libyan casuals/looters, taken to hospital
- 12 Sep 2012 (ca. midnight LT): Five members LTC Andy Wood's Site Security Team at Base 27 outside Tripoli learn of attack
- 12 Sep 2012 (early hours): Two of the five (SF Glenn Doherty, one Marine) join 3 others from Tripoli Embassy, leased C-130 plane, flew to Benghazi
- 12 Sep 2012 (0130): Tripoli rescue crew arrived Benghazi airport, where they are held up pending transportation for 3 hours by members of Libya Shield
- 12 Sep 2012 (0430): Tripoli rescue crew arrived CIA Annex and joined fight
- 12 Sep 2012 (0500): Final Ansar al-Shariah attack w/mortar; Ty Woods, Glenn Doherty killed on the roof; others gravely injured
- 12 Sep 2012 (0615): 31 survivors, 3 bodies, depart Annex for Benghazi airport

The Day After: Cover-Up Begins

- 12 Sep 2012 (0605): DoD prepared C-17 for Libya
- 12 Sep 2012 (1415): C-17 departed Germany
- 12 Sep 2012 (1917): C-17 departed Tripoli en route Germany w/Benghazi survivors/wounded
- 12 Sep 2012 (2319): C-17 arrived Ramstein Airbase, Germany

- 12 Sep 2012: Attacker cell phone found on Annex compound
- 12 Sep 2012: CIA sent local Libyan agents to remove sensitive materials
- Faraj al-Chalabi flew from Libya to Pakistan to meet w/AQ

- 12 Sep 2012: Pres. Obama in Rose Garden: 'no act of terror…'
- 12 Sep 2012: Fleet Antiterrorism Support Team (FAST) based in Rota, Spain arrived Tripoli, Libya–ca. 50 Marines "trained in crisis response operations"–after being forced to deplane, change out of uniforms
- 13 Sep 2012: Pres. Obama phoned Morsi re: protests, need to protect USEMB Cairo
- 13 Sep 2012: VTC–Morell told Libya Chief Of Station (COS)/Chief of Base demonstration preceded attack–burden of proof on COS
- 14 Sep 2012: Jay Carney "protests were in reaction to a video"
- 14 Sep 2012: CNN found Amb. Stevens' journal on floor of compound
- 14 Sep 2012: Ty Woods' funeral–SecState Clinton tells father "we're going to arrest & prosecute" the man who made the video
- 14 Sep 2012: POTUS notified Congress re: FAST deployment to Libya as per War Powers Act
- FAST = Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team
- 14 Sep 2012: Ben Rhodes Email outlining cover-up points on video
- 15 Sep 2012: Mike Morrell, Chief CTC/CIA, rec'd email from COS Tripoli–no demonstrations
- 15 Sep 2012: Deputies Committee Mtng; McDonough/NSC, DoS wanted changes in talking points
- 15 Sep 2012: Morrell edited talking points for Amb. Susan Rice, took out 'AQ', 'terror attack,' left in 'demonstration'
- 15-17 Sep 2012: FBI interviewed survivors–all called it 'terrorist attack'
- 16 Sep 2012: Libyan Pres. Mohamed Magariaf told Bob Schieffer, 'Face the Nation': "…no doubt…preplanned…pre-meditated months ago…"
- 16 Sep 2012: Amb. Susan Rice lied to the nation on 5 Sunday talk shows re: film as cause of Benghazi attack
- 17 Sep 2012: Tariq Ramadan condemned/blamed film for Benghazi at American Muslim website
- 17 Sep 2012: Ahmed Rehab, ExecDir CAIR-Chicago on local radio re film, blamed film for anti-American protests
- 18 Sep 2012: CIA, FBI reviewed CCTV video from Ambassador's compound–no protests

- 18 Sep 2012: FBI arrived in Tripoli to investigate (but did not go to Benghazi)
- 18 Sep 2012: Jay Carney–"it was the video…precipitated some of the unrest in Benghazi"
- 19 Sep 2012: Jay Carney–"do not yet have indication that it was pre-planned"
- 19 Sep 2012: Matt Olson, NCTC to Senate Homeland Scty & Govt. Affair Chm. Sen. Joe Lieberman: "They were killed in the course of a terrorist attack on our embassy"

- 12-19 Sep 2012: NSA exploited attacker cell phone
- By 19 Sep 2012, NSA mapped entire Ansar al-Shariah attacker network, pre/during/post attack
- Sep 2012-present: NSA monitoring Libyan Ansar al-Shariah cell phone network

OIC & U.S. Muslim Brotherhood Agenda: Restrict Free Speech

- 20 Sep 2012: American Muslim website published US-MB statements vs film, free speech
- 20 Sep 2012: Pres. Obama in Univision TV interview blamed the video
- 20 Sep 2012: Jay Carney admitted terrorism
- 21 Sep 2012: SecState Clinton admitted terrorism, abandons video narrative
- 24 Sep 2012: Pres. Obama appeared on *The View* & blamed the video
- 25 Sep 2012: Pres. Obama UN speech cited film multiple times
- 25 Sep 2012: Pres. Obama bowed to Islamic Law on slander: "The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam"
- 25 Sep 2012: Pakistani PM Ali Zardari condemned freedom of expression
- 26 Sep 2012: Egyptian Pres. Morsi rejected free speech, implied speech causes violence
- 28 Sep 2012: Turkish FoMin Ahmet Davutoglu cited 'Islamophobia…can no longer be tolerated under guise of freedom of expression…'
- 29 Sep 2012: OIC SecGen Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu addressed Foreign Ministers at UN, blamed Benghazi on film, called to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief'

Fall-Out Proceeds

- Oct 2012: John Brennan visited Libya
- Oct 2012: CK & SJ visited Tripoli
- 4 Oct 2012: SecState Clinton established Accountability Review Board
- ARB instructed to avoid fixing blame for Benghazi failures
- 6 Nov 2012: Obama re-elected
- Nov 2012: Dir CTC/CIA Mike Morrell & Amb. Susan Rice in closed door mtng w/Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)–Morrell blamed FBI for altering talking points
- Sen. Graham phoned FBI, which "went ballistic"–w/in 24 hrs., CIA admitted responsibility
- 20 Nov 2012: Gen. David Petraeus resigned as CIA Director as Paula Broadway scandal broke open
- Diane Feinstein, Chair Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, complained that FBI Petraeus probe not briefed to Congress

2013

- 23 Jan 2013: SecState Clinton testified before Senate Foreign Relations Committee–"what difference does it make?"
- 1 Feb 2013: Hillary Clinton resigned as SecState; John Kerry sworn in

- Mar 2013: Faraj al-Chalabi returned to Libya from Pakistan; arrested
- June 2013: Faraj al-Chalabi released for 'lack of evidence' even though USG has evidence he was involved in Benghazi attack planning

Clinton Team Gathers

- 2013: Beacon Global Strategies LLC founded in WDC by J. Michael Allen (former HPSCI staff director), Jeremy Bash, Philippe Reines, Andrew Shapiro
- Mike Morrell, former CIA CTC Director, joined firm in July 2013
- All principals have close ties to former SecState Hillary Clinton

- Source: http://www.weeklystandard.com/print/articles/benghazi-cover-cont_782749.html

- 21 Jun 2013: Judicial Watch sued administration for Benghazi docs
- 26 Jun 2013: Gen. Carter Ham testified behind closed doors to closed session of House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigation
- Gen. Ham said he got phone call of "terrorist attack" & told Gen. Dempsey immediately
- Aug 2013: House Committee on Oversight & Govt. Reform requested Benghazi emails

2014

- 4 Mar 2014: Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), House Oversight Committee, sent letter to Atty. Gen. Holder asking why FBI investigation of Gen. David Petraeus remains open 18 mos. after initiated
- 2 Apr 2014: Mike Morell testified before HPSCI he removed "Islamic terror" attack to avoid "inflaming" Muslim world
- 18 Apr 2014: Federal court ordered administration to turn over Benghazi docs to Judicial Watch
- 2 May 2014: Speaker John Boehner announced vote to form Select Committee on Benghazi

[redacted] [redacted]

711373

OFFICE OF RECORDER OF DEEDS, D. C.
Corporation Division
Sixth and D Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that all provisions of the District of Columbia Non-profit Corporation Act have been complied with and ACCORDINGLY this Certificate of Incorporation

is hereby issued to the ACCURACY IN MEDIA

as of the date hereinafter mentioned.

Date June 17, 1971

PETER S. RIDLEY,
Recorder of Deeds, D. C.

Alfred Goldstein
Superintendent of Corporations

Government of the District of Columbia
Form RD-C 33
Oct. 1962

2642

[redacted] [redacted]

OFFICE OF RECORDER OF DEEDS, D.C.
CORPORATION DIVISION
SIXTH AND D STREETS, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

FEES DUE			NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
Filing Fee	$10.00	MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO RECORDER OF DEEDS, D.C.	ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
Indexing Fee	2.00		
Total	$12.00		

We, the undersigned natural persons of the age of twenty-one years or more, acting as incorporators of a corporation adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation pursuant to the District of Columbia Non-profit Corporation Act:

FIRST: The name of the corporation is

ACCURACY IN MEDIA

SECOND: The period of duration is Perpetual

THIRD: The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized is/~~are~~: To promote, encourage, sponsor, support, finance and facilitate communication, education and cooperation among individuals and organizations working in the mass communications media and to conduct, promote, encourage, sponsor, support, finance, and facilitate research, education and information activities and public discussion groups, forums, panels, lectures and other educational and informational processes in connection with the mass communication media and public understanding thereof with the aim of improving the accuracy of news reporting in the mass communicatic media and to work for the adoption by editors and publishers of codes setting forth good journalistic practice relating to accuracy in reporting and the correction of errors.

FILED
JUN 17 1971
BY: [signature]

[redacted] [redacted]

FOURTH:* (A) The corporation will not have members.

~~(B) The corporation shall be divided into~~ [redacted]

FIFTH: The directors shall be elected or appointed as shall be provided in the bylaws.

SIXTH: Provisions for the regulation of the internal affairs of the corporation, including provisions for distribution of assets on dissolution or final liquidation shall be provided in the bylaws.

SEVENTH: The address, including street and number, of its initial registered office is Suite 1012, 501-13th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. ~~Suite 1012, 501 - 13th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.~~ and the name of its initial registered agent at such address is (A.H.K.) Robert S. McClellan ~~ABRAHAM H. KALISH, Executive Secretary~~.

EIGHTH: The number of directors constituting the initial board of directors is 3 and the names and addresses, including street and number of the persons who are to serve as the initial directors until the first annual meeting or until their successors be elected and qualified are:

NAME	ADDRESS
Paul J. Bonine	11120 Nicholson St, Silver Spring, Md.
John K. McLean	317 Mencion Dr Alexandria, Va
Abraham H. Kalish	10807 E Nolcrest Dr. Silver Spring, Md.

*Execute only (A) or (B) and strike other provision.

[redacted] [redacted]

NINTH: The names and addresses, including street and number, of each incorporator is:

NAME	ADDRESS
Reed J. Irvine	11120 Nicholson Dr., Silver Spring, Md.
John K. McLean	317 Mansion Dr. Alexandria Va.
Abraham H. Kalish	10807 E. Nolcrest Dr. Silver Spring, Md

Date June 15, 19 71

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON } ss:

I, Hilda Kalish, a Notary Public, hereby certify that on the 15th day of June, 1971, personally appeared before me REED J. IRVINE, JOHN K. McLEAN, and ABRAHAM H. KALISH, who declared that they signed the foregoing document as incorporators, and that the statements therein contained are true.

(Notarial Seal)

Hilda Kalish
Notary Public, D.C.

My commission expires July 14, 1974

Articles of Incorporation—Non-profit Corporation
Lorenz Law Book Co. 509 8 St. N.W., Washington 1, D. C.

Written Statement for the Record
Michael Morell
Former Acting Director and Deputy Director of the CIA
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
2 April 2014

Introduction

Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Ruppersberger, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for inviting me to testify today on Benghazi. As an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for 33 years, I always valued the ability to communicate directly with Congress in general and with this Committee in particular.

I am especially grateful for this opportunity because I am deeply troubled by allegations – made by several members of Congress as well as by certain media outlets – that I inappropriately altered and influenced CIA's classified analysis and its unclassified talking points about what happened in Benghazi, Libya in September 2012 and that I covered up those actions. These allegations accuse me of taking these actions for the political benefit of President Obama and then Secretary of State Clinton. These allegations are false.

I am very appreciative that the Committee decided to conduct this hearing in open session. As the Committee is aware, I have testified three previous times on Benghazi in classified sessions – twice before this Committee and once before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI). Today, I appreciate the opportunity to speak directly to the American people about the facts on what really happened.

Before I get into the details, I want to emphasize to the Committee – and to the American people – something that we must remember above all else: on the night of 11 September 2012 and in the early morning hours of 12 September, terrorists in Benghazi killed four American patriots – Ambassador Chris Stevens, communications officer Sean Smith, and two security officers, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty. My prayers are with

EXHIBIT 1

The first indication that there may not have been a protest arrived on 14 September in the form of an intelligence report from Tripoli Station offering the account by one of the officers from the CIA Base in Benghazi who had responded to the State Department facility's call for help. This report was disseminated broadly in the intelligence and policy communities. This officer said that there was no sign of a large gathering or protest when he arrived at the State Department facility. I do not remember seeing this report – it was not sent to me directly nor was it in my morning reading package.

Nevertheless, the analysts' reaction to the report was that, by itself, it was not enough to alter their judgment about a protest because the author of the report did not reach the State Department facility until well after the attack began – almost an hour. The analysts judged that the protest could have dissipated once the State Department facility was assaulted. (I will cover Chief of Station Tripoli's views on the issue of whether or not there was a protest later in this statement).

CIA published another analysis on Benghazi on the morning of 15 September. This was written jointly with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and again coordinated within the Intelligence Community. It reinforced two judgments from the piece on 13 September – that extremists with ties to al-Qa'ida participated in the attack and that the attacks were inspired by that day's breach of our Embassy in Cairo. The piece also added a new possible motivation – al-Qa'ida leader Ayman Zawahiri's public statement late on 10 September calling on the Libyan people to avenge the death in Pakistan of senior al-Qa'ida leader Abu Yahya al-Libi, a Libyan national. Again, the piece made no reference to the video defaming the Prophet Muhammad as a motivation for the attack in Benghazi.

It was not until 18 September, when CIA received the Libyan Government's assessment of video footage from the State Department facility's security cameras that showed the front of the facility just before the attack – with no sign of protesters – that it became clear that we needed to revisit our analysis. It is important to note that on 18 September, the Libyans did not provide the video; they only provided their assessment of the video.

Analysts refined their analysis, and on 22 September, CIA – in coordination with the Intelligence Community – published a joint piece with NCTC that

The first allegation is that I knew that there had not been a protest when I edited the talking points on 15 September. This allegation flows from an email sent by our Chief of Station (COS) in Tripoli to my staff – and to a number of other officials at CIA -- on the morning of 15 September. The email was the latest in a series of daily reports updating the security situation in Libya (these had been requested by HQS and other COSs were doing the same). Near the end of the email was a reference to the COS's assessment that the Benghazi attack was "not/not an escalation of protests." I read the email as part of my morning reading on 15 September.

The COS' view on the issue of the protest jumped out at me immediately. Why? Because it contradicted what the analysts believed at that time and what they had written just two days before for senior policymakers. Because of this, I asked my Executive Assistant to request that the COS provide supporting information and logic for his view that there was no protest. My Executive Assistant sent this request at roughly 10:40 am on 15 September.

The COS' view was significant to me for two reasons. First, I took the views of any COS seriously because Chiefs of Station are the Agency's senior officers on the ground. They are closest to the action. And, secondly, I had a lot of confidence in COS Tripoli. I had worked closely with him when he worked at headquarters prior to his field assignment, and I found him to be an outstanding intelligence officer in every respect.

In his initial email, the COS provided two data points as to why he thought there was no protest, but neither seemed convincing to me. His first point was that local press reports said there was no protest (this was not compelling because there were other press reports saying that there was a protest). His second point was that the CIA security officers who responded to the call for help from the State Department facility from the separate CIA base on the night of the attacks did not see a protest when they arrived (again, this was not compelling because these officers did not arrive until almost an hour after the attack started and the protesters could have dispersed by them). Also, in my mind at the time, was the fact that Tripoli Station – just the day before – disseminated an intelligence report indicating that there was a protest. In any case, I felt the analysts needed more from the COS if they were going to refine their judgment regarding a protest.

I want to be clear that I read the email from the COS before I edited the talking points. To guide my editing, I used what the analysts assessed at the

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BENGHAZI: EXPOSING FAILURE AND RECOGNIZING COURAGE

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MAY 8, 2013

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Exhibit 2

military and/or security assets to the airport to assist our response team. At this point this response team looks like it may be a hostage rescue team, that they are going to—we are going to need to send them to try to save the Ambassador, who was in a hospital that is, as far as we know, under enemy control. Our contacts with the government in Tripoli are telling us that the Ambassador is in a safe place, but they imply that he is with us in the annex in Benghazi, and we keep telling them, No, he is not with us, we do not have his—we do not have him.

At about 12:30, at the same time that we see the Twitter feeds that are asserting that Ansar al-Sharia is responsible for the attack, we also see a call for an attack on the embassy in Tripoli, and so we begin to—we had always thought that we were under threat, but we now have to take care of ourselves, and we begin planning to evacuate our facility. When I say our facility, I mean the State Department residential compound in Tripoli and to consolidate all of our personnel in—at the annex in Tripoli. We have about 55 diplomatic personnel in the two annexes.

On that night, if I may go back, I would just like to point out that with Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith in Benghazi there are five diplomatic security agents, assistant regional security officers. With us in, at our residential compound in Tripoli we have the RSO John Martinec, three assistant regional security officers protecting 28 diplomatic personnel. In addition, we also have four Special Forces personnel who are part of the training mission.

During the night I'm in touch with Washington, keeping them posted of what's happening in Tripoli and to the best of my knowledge what I'm being told in Benghazi. I think at about 2 p.m.—2 a.m., sorry, the Secretary, Secretary of State Clinton called me, along with her senior staff, we're all on the phone, and she asked me what was going on, and I briefed her on developments. Most of the conversation was about the search for Ambassador Stevens. It was also about what we were going to do with our personnel in Benghazi, and I told her that we would need to evacuate, and that was—she said that was the right thing to do.

At about 3 a.m. I received a call from the Prime Minister of Libya. I think it's the saddest phone call I've ever had in my life. He told me that Ambassador Stevens had passed away.

Mr. HICKS. I immediately telephoned Washington that news afterwards and began accelerating our efforts to withdraw from the villas compound and move to the annex.

Excuse me. I will take a glass of water.

Our team responded with amazing discipline and courage in Tripoli in organizing our withdrawal. I have vivid memories of that. I think the most telling, though, was of our communications staff dismantling our communications equipment to take with us to the annex and destroying the classified communications capability.

Our office manager, Amber Pickens, was everywhere that night, just throwing herself into some task that had to be done. First, she was taking a log of what we were doing. Then she was loading magazines, carrying ammunition to the—carrying our ammunition supply to our vehicles. Then she was smashing hard drives with an axe.

Mr. HICKS. They remained in Tripoli with us. The medic went with the nurse to the hospital to lend his skills to the treatment and care of our wounded.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. How did the personnel react to being told to stand down?

Mr. HICKS. They were furious. I can only say—well, I will quote Lieutenant Colonel Gibson. He said, "This is the first time in my career that a diplomat has more balls than somebody in the military."

Mr. CHAFFETZ. So the military is told to stand down, not engage in the fight. These are the kind of people willing to engage. Where did that message come down, where did the stand-down order come from?

Mr. HICKS. I believe it came from either AFRICOM or SOCAFRICA.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Now, my understanding is that General Ham was actually not in Stuttgart, where AFRICOM is headquartered, but he was in Washington, D.C. Is that correct?

Mr. HICKS. I don't know the whereabouts of General Ham on that night.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, this is something that we are going to have to continue to explore.

I need to move quickly now to Mr. Thompson, if I could.

You were the leader there at the what is called the F.E.S.T. within the State Department. According to the State Department Web site, the F.E.S.T. is the Foreign Emergency Support Team, the U.S. Government's only interagency, on-call, short-notice team poised to respond to terrorist attacks worldwide.

I want to read to you an excerpt of an email sent by you to Kathleen Austin-Ferguson on Tuesday, September 11th, 2012, at 9:58 p.m. Could you help me understand, who is Kathleen Austin-Ferguson?

Mr. THOMPSON. She is Under Secretary Kennedy's deputy.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. You wrote, "I am told that Pat Kennedy participated in a very senior conference call with the White House and discouraged the F.E.S.T option. To remind, F.E.S.T. has dedicated aircraft able to respond in 4 hours, is Department of State-led, and provides the below skills. When FBI was contacted, they responded that this situation would be better addressed via a F.E.S.T. response. Thus, there are others who are thinking the same way. Ready to discuss further as needed. Mark."

Two questions——

Chairman ISSA. Can the gentleman suspend for a moment?

Earlier, there was one document that had not been placed in the record because it hadn't been provided through official channels. And I would ask that we get that. I think it came from Mr. Gowdy.

And then, Mr. Chaffetz, if you could make your document available so we could make copies.

And then for any other Members on either side of the dais, if you plan to use a document that is not currently committee record—and I realize, since we have gotten very little, there is very little committee records—please do us the favor of having copies so they can be distributed at or prior to the beginning of the questioning.

I am sorry to interrupt.

ing what we know today. So I want to thank all three of you gentlemen for your service to the American people and to our government. And I want to say to you that the tough treatment you have gotten as a result not only on that day in September but since then is a horrible tragedy.

I want to go back to Mr. Gowdy's line of questions here. Mr. Hicks was there a protocol within the consulate in the event of a protest?

Mr. HICKS. Yes, there was.

Mr. MCHENRY. Was there any evidence when you were there in Libya on that day that this was a protest?

Mr. HICKS. No, there was none. And I am confident that Ambassador Stevens would have reported a protest immediately if one appeared on his door. The protocol of course was for us to evacuate immediately from the consulate and move to the annex.

Mr. MCHENRY. Okay. Was there anything in connection to a YouTube video, was there any awareness that the events occurred because of a YouTube video?

Mr. HICKS. The YouTube video was a non-event in Libya.

Mr. MCHENRY. Okay. And did you know about that within a couple of days or the day of?

Mr. HICKS. Yes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Okay. And so did you report to anyone in Washington within the first couple of days that there was anything in connection—a protest in connection to a YouTube video?

Mr. HICKS. No. The only report that our mission made through every channel was that there had been an attack on a consulate.

Mr. MCHENRY. Not a protest?

Mr. HICKS. No protest.

Mr. MCHENRY. You can leave your microphone off. I'm going to come back to you a few times.

Mr. Gowdy mentioned this earlier, but on September 16th Ambassador Susan Rice went on the Sunday shows, recited a whole group of talking points. Were you a part of those talking points.

Mr. HICKS. No, I had no role in that preparation.

Mr. MCHENRY. Okay. So one month later we had an Under Secretary Kennedy. Let's play his statement:

"Always made clear from the very beginning that we are giving out the best information we have at the time we are giving it out. That information has evolved over time. For example, if any administration official, including any career official, had been on television on Sunday, September 16, they would have said the same thing that Ambassador Rice said. She had information at that point from the intelligence community, and that is the same information I had and I would have made exactly the same point. Clearly we know more today, but we knew what we knew when we knew it."

By September 16th, did you know what you know what you know, which is apparently what Susan Rice said? Let me rephrase that actually. Let me actually make that a question, if you will.

Ambassador Rice recited a set of facts. A month later they defended—the State Department defends that. You are a career State Department official. Would you have said the things that Ambassador Rice said?

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BENGHAZI: THE ATTACKS AND THE LESSONS LEARNED

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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Exhibit 3

plane carrying the words "United States of America" touches down in some far-off capital, I feel again the honor it is to represent the world's indispensible nation. And I am confident that with your help, we will keep the United States safe, strong, and exceptional.

So I want to thank this committee for your partnership and your support of diplomats and development experts. You know the importance of the work they do, day in and day out. You know that America's values and vital national security interests are at stake.

And I appreciate what Ranking Member Corker just said. It is absolutely critical that this committee and the State Department, with your new Secretary and former chairman, work together to really understand and address the resources, support, and changes that are needed to face what are increasingly complex threats.

I know you share my sense of responsibility and urgency. And while we may not agree on everything, let us stay focused on what really matters—protecting our people and the country we love. And thank you for the support you personally have given to me over the last 4 years.

I now would be happy to take your questions.

[The prepared statement of Secretary Clinton follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity.

The terrorist attacks in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, that claimed the lives of four brave Americans—Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty—are part of a broader strategic challenge to the United States and our partners in north Africa. Today, I want to offer some context for this challenge and share what we've learned, how we are protecting our people, and where we can work together to honor our fallen colleagues and continue to champion America's interests and values.

Any clear-eyed examination of this matter must begin with this sobering fact: Since 1988, there have been 19 Accountability Review Boards investigating attacks on American diplomats and their facilities. Benghazi joins a long list of tragedies, for our Department and for other agencies: hostages taken in Tehran in 1979, our Embassy and Marine barracks bombed in Beirut in 1983, Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996, our Embassies in East Africa in 1998, consulate staff murdered in Jeddah in 2004, the Khost attack in 2009, and too many others.

Of course, the list of attacks foiled, crises averted, and lives saved is even longer. We should never forget that our security professionals get it right 99 percent of the time, against difficult odds all over the world. That's why, like my predecessors, I trust them with my life.

Let's also remember that administrations of both parties, in partnership with Congress, have made concerted and good faith efforts to learn from the tragedies that have occurred, to implement recommendations from the Review Boards, to seek necessary resources, and to better protect our people from constantly evolving threats. That's what the men and women who serve our country deserve. And it's what we are doing again now, with your help. As Secretary, I have had no higher priority, and no greater responsibility.

As I have said many times since September 11, I take responsibility. Nobody is more committed to getting this right. I am determined to leave the State Department and our country safer, stronger, and more secure.

Taking responsibility meant moving quickly in those first uncertain hours and days to respond to the immediate crisis and further protect our people and posts in high-threat areas across the region and the world. It meant launching an independent investigation to determine exactly what happened in Benghazi and to recommend steps for improvement. And it meant intensifying our efforts to combat terrorism and support emerging democracies in north Africa and beyond.

Let me share some of the lessons we have learned, the steps we have taken, and the work we continue to do.

First, let's start on the night of September 11 itself and those difficult early days. I directed our response from the State Department and stayed in close contact with

officials from across our Government and the Libyan Government. So I saw firsthand what Ambassador Thomas Pickering and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, called "timely" and "exceptional" coordination. No delays in decisionmaking. No denials of support from Washington or from the military. And I want to echo the Review Board's praise for the valor and courage of our people on the ground—especially the security professionals in Benghazi and Tripoli. The Board said our response saved American lives in real time—and it did.

The very next morning, I told the American people that "heavily armed militants assaulted our compound" and vowed to bring them to justice. And I stood with President Obama as he spoke of "an act of terror."

You may recall that in that same period, we also saw violent attacks on our Embassies in Cairo, Sanaa, Tunis, and Khartoum, as well as large protests outside many other posts where thousands of our diplomats serve.

So I immediately ordered a review of our security posture around the world, with particular scrutiny for High Threat Posts. We asked the Department of Defense to join Interagency Security Assessment Teams and to dispatch hundreds of additional Marine Security Guards. I named the first Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for High Threat Posts, so missions in dangerous places get the attention they need. And we reached out to Congress to help address physical vulnerabilities, including risks from fire, and to hire additional Diplomatic Security personnel.

Second, even as we took these steps, I also appointed the Accountability Review Board led by Ambassador Pickering and Admiral Mullen so that we could more fully understand what went wrong and how to fix it.

I have accepted every one of their recommendations—and I asked the Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources to lead a task force to ensure that all 29 of them are implemented quickly and completely . . . as well as to pursue additional steps above and beyond those in the Board's report.

Because of the effort we began in the days after the attacks, work is already well underway. And, as I pledged in my letter to you last month, implementation has now begun on all 29 recommendations. Our task force started by translating the recommendations into 64 specific action items. All of these action items were assigned to specific bureaus and offices, with clear timelines for completion. Fully 85 percent are on track to be completed by the end of March, with a number completed already.

We are taking a top-to-bottom look, and rethinking how we make decisions on where, when, and how our people operate in high threat areas, and how we respond to threats and crises.

As part of our effort to go above and beyond the Review Board's recommendations, we are initiating an annual High Threat Post Review chaired by the Secretary of State, and ongoing reviews by the Deputy Secretaries, to ensure pivotal questions about security reach the highest levels. And we will regularize protocols for sharing information with Congress.

All of these actions are designed to increase the safety of our diplomats and development experts and reduce the chances of another Benghazi happening again.

Now, in addition to the immediate action we took and the Review Board process, we have been moving forward on a third front: addressing the broader strategic challenge in north Africa and the wider region.

Because Benghazi didn't happen in a vacuum. The Arab revolutions have scrambled power dynamics and shattered security forces across the region. And instability in Mali has created an expanding safe haven for terrorists who look to extend their influence and plot further attacks of the kind we saw just last week in Algeria.

And let me offer my deepest condolences to the families of the Americans and all the people from many nations who were killed and injured in the recent hostage crisis. We remain in close touch with the Government of Algeria and stand ready to provide assistance if needed. We are seeking to gain a fuller understanding of what took place so that we can work together to prevent terrorist attacks like this in the future.

Concerns about terrorism and instability in north Africa are not new. Indeed they have been a top priority for our entire national security team. But after Benghazi, we accelerated a diplomatic campaign to increase pressure on Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and other terrorist groups across the region.

In the first hours and days, I conferred with the President of Libya and the Foreign Ministers of Tunisia and Morocco. Two weeks later, I met with regional leaders at the United Nations General Assembly and held a special meeting focused on Mali and the Sahel. In October, I flew to Algeria to discuss the fight against AQIM. In November, I sent Deputy Secretary Bill Burns to follow up in Algiers. And then in December, he cochaired the Global Counterterrorism Forum in Abu Dhabi and a meeting in Tunis of leaders working to build new democracies and reform security services.

I want to follow up on one area of northern Africa. You point out the risk factors that we currently have in northern Africa. Algeria is a reminder of the global security concerns. We do not know, as Senator Risch pointed out, the individuals who may have been involved in Libya may have been in Algeria. We do not know that. But we do know there are reports from the United Nations and others that weapons have gotten from Libya into Algeria, which points out our need, as we look at transitions occurring in that region, Syria, Assad is not going to be there we think much longer. There are a lot of weapons in Syria.

Do we have a strategy to make sure as we go through transition in countries that their weapons are—we are mindful that these weapons could end up harming U.S. interests. And it needs to be part of our strategy to make sure as we support alternative governments and the rebels, that there is a strong priority in protecting the source of these weapons not ending up harming Americans or harming our interests.

Secretary CLINTON. Well, Senator, you are absolutely right. One of the reasons that we and other government agencies were present in Benghazi is exactly that. We had a concerted effort to try to track down and find and recover as many man pads and other very dangerous weapons as possible.

Libya was awash in weapons before the revolution. Obviously there were additional weapons introduced. But the vast, vast majority came out of Gaddafi warehouses and were, as they were saying, liberated and then went on the black market, were seized by militias, seized by other groups, and have made their way out of Libya into other countries in the region, and have made their way to Syria, we believe.

It is a redline for this administration with respect to Syria concerning the use of chemical weapons. Syria, as you probably know, in addition to having the fourth-largest army before this revolution, has a very significant supply of chemical and biological weapons.

Given the instability in Syria right now, what we are trying to do is to coordinate closely with a number of like-minded nations, neighbors, and partners to be able to work to try to prevent those from falling into the wrong hands—jihadist hands, Hezbollah hands—but also to try to work with the internal opposition for them to understand the dangers that are posed.

So this Pandora's box, if you will, of weapons coming out of these countries in the Middle East and North Africa is the source of one of our biggest threats. There is no doubt that the Algerian terrorists had weapons from Libya. There is no doubt that the Malian remnants of AQIM have weapons from Libya. So we just have to do a much better job.

The final thing I would say about this is, you know, AFRICOM was stood up about 10 years ago. I think a lot of people at the time wondered why would we have another command in the world and why in Africa. I now think we need to pay much more attention to AFRICOM, to its capacity inside Africa. It is based in Stuttgart, Germany, for all kinds of complicated logistical and political reasons. Carter Ham has been a very dedicated leader of AFRICOM during his time there.

facilities that are either unable to collocate or legislatively authorized not to be collocated. Any facilities in this second group that lack a waiver will be required to submit requests for collocation waivers.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Senator MENENDEZ. Senator Paul.

Senator PAUL. Thank you for appearing, Secretary Clinton, and I am glad to see your health is improving.

One of the things that disappointed me most about the original 9/11 was no one was fired. We spent trillions of dollars, but there were a lot of human errors. These are judgment errors, and the people who make judgment errors need to be replaced, fired, and no longer in a position of making these judgment calls.

So we have a review board. The review board finds 64 different things we can change. A lot of them are common sense and should be done, but the question is, it is a failure of leadership that they were not done in advance and four lives were lost because of this.

I am glad that you are accepting responsibility. I think that ultimately with your leaving, you accept the culpability for the worst tragedy since 9/11, and I really mean that. Had I been President at the time and I found that you did not read the cables from Benghazi, you did not read the cables from Ambassador Stevens, I would have relieved you of your post. I think it is inexcusable.

The thing is, is that, you know, we can understand that you are not reading every cable. I can understand that maybe you are not aware of the cable from the Ambassador in Vienna that asked for $100,000 for an electrical charging station. I can understand that maybe you are not aware that your Department spent $100,000 on three comedians who went to India on a promotional tour called "Make Chai Not War."

But I think you might be able to understand and might be aware of the $80 million spent on a consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif that will never be built. I think it is inexcusable that you did not know about this and that you did not read these cables.

I would think by anybody's estimation, Libya has to have been one of the hottest of hot spots around the world. Not to know of the request for security really I think cost these people their lives. Their lives could have been saved had someone been more available, had someone been aware of these things, more on top of the job.

And the thing is, is I do not suspect you of bad motives. The review board said, well, these people were not willfully negligent. I do not think you were willful. I do not suspect your motives of wanting to serve your country.

But it was a failure of leadership not to be involved. It was a failure of leadership not to know these things.

And so, I think it is good that you are accepting responsibility because no one else is. And this is—there is a certain amount of culpability to the worst tragedy since 9/11, and I am glad you are accepting this.

Now my question is, Is the United States involved with any procuring of weapons, transfer of weapons, buying, selling, anyhow transferring weapons to Turkey out of Libya?

Secretary CLINTON. To Turkey? I will have to take that question for the record. Nobody has ever raised that with me. I don't——

Senator PAUL. It has been in news reports that ships have been leaving from Libya and that they may have weapons. And what I would like to know is the annex that was close by, were they involved with procuring, buying, selling, obtaining weapons, and were any of these weapons being transferred to other countries? Any countries, Turkey included?

Secretary CLINTON. Well, Senator, you will have to direct that question to the agency that ran the annex. I will see what information is available and——

Senator PAUL. You are saying you do not know?

Secretary CLINTON. I do not know. I do not have any information on that. And you know, with respect to personnel, Senator, you know, first, that is why we have independent people who review the situation as we did with the Pickering and Mullen ARB, and all four individuals identified in the ARB have been removed from their jobs. Second, they have been placed on administrative leave while we step through the personnel process to determine the next steps.

[The written information supplied by the State Department follows:]

The United States is not involved with any transfer of weapons from Libya to Turkey.

Secretary CLINTON. Third, both Ambassador Pickering and Admiral Mullen specifically highlighted the reason why this is complicated because under Federal statute and regulations, unsatisfactory leadership is not grounds for finding a breach of duty. The ARB did not find these four individuals breached their duty. So I have submitted legislation to this committee, to the Congress, to fix this problem so future ARBs will not face this situation.

Senator PAUL. But here is the problem. The review board has all these recommendations, but there is one thing they failed to address and I think you have failed to address, and it sets us up for another tragedy like this. They should have never been sent in there without a military guard.

This should have been an embassy like in Baghdad in a war zone, and it should have been under military guard, significant military guard, Defense Department command. I do not think the State Department is capable of being in a war zone and protecting these people. I still do not think that.

I think another tragedy could happen. I think another tragedy could happen in another war zone around the world. I think someone needs to make an executive decision, someone needs to take leadership, and with that leadership should be you should not send them in with no Marines. You should not send them in with Marines who are to guard records, not people. You should not send them in with the same kind of Ambassador or Embassy staff that you have in Paris.

I think that is inexcusable.

Secretary CLINTON. Well, Senator, the reason I am here today is to answer questions the best I can. I am the Secretary of State, and the ARB made very clear that the level of responsibility for the failures that they outlined was set at the Assistant Secretary level and below.

[redacted]

RPTS DEAN

DCMN BURRELL

Classification Key

Unclassified

[redacted]

AFRICOM AND SOCAFRICA AND THE

TERRORIST ATTACKS IN BENGHAZI,

LIBYA ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

House of Representatives,

Committee on Armed Services,

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations,

Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 9:00 a.m., in room 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Martha Roby [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

Exhibit 4

[redacted]

[redacted]

General?

General Ham. Yes, sir. But I am not privy to those conversations. Mine were with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and with the Secretary. And I think we were pretty clear on, you know, pretty shortly thereafter kind of the nature of the attack.

Dr. Wenstrup. Because as a military person, I am concerned that someone in the military would be advising that this was a demonstration. I would hope that our military leadership would be advising this was a terrorist attack.

General Ham. Again, sir, I think, you know, there was some preliminary discussion about, you know, maybe there was a demonstration. But I think at the command, I personally and I think the command very quickly got to the point this was not a demonstration, this was a terrorist attack.

Dr. Wenstrup. And you would have advised as such if asked. Would that be correct?

General Ham. Well, and with General Dempsey and Secretary Panetta, that is the nature of the conversation we had, yes, sir.

Dr. Wenstrup. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. And I yield back.

Mrs. Roby. Dr. Heck.

Dr. Heck. Thank you, Madam Chair. And General Ham, thank you for your long service and for agreeing to appear before us. Even in retirement, it is much appreciated. I agree that I think with one of your opening comments that probably one of the most important things

[redacted]

~~TOP SECRET//NOFORN~~

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Office of Congressional Affairs
Secure: [redacted]
Open: [redacted]
Date: 09/14/2012 11:29 AM

Subject: Due-Outs from HPSCI Coffee
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

This message is digitally signed.

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//NOFORN~~

[redacted]

==========

For the Committee:

1) "White Paper" on press guidance (OPA, OGC, DI, NE)

**We've already spoken to OPA who will be coording with the WH as well

2) Paper on motivations for Green on Blue violence (OSA)

3) Contact State Legl Affairs for questions on document destruction at consulate (OCA)

For DCIA:

1) Cable(s) to [redacted] warning of protests linked to the film and response (NE)

2) Cable(s) to stations on 9/11 security (DS, NCS)

Please send Committee responses to OCA for 7th floor coord.

Please send DCIA responses to ODCIA.

Thank you!

[redacted]
Office of Congressional Affairs
Secure: [redacted]
Open: [redacted]

==========

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~TOP SECRET//NOFORN~~

Exhibit 5

From: Nuland, Victoria J [nulandvj[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 7:39 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; [redacted] Shawn S Turner; [redacted] Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Sullivan, Jacob J; Adams, David S
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

I just had a convo with [redacted] and I now understand that these are being prepared to give to Members of Congress to use with the media.

On that basis; I have serious concerns about all the parts highlighted below, and arming members of Congress to start making assertions to the media that we ourselves are not making because we don't want to prejudice the investigation.

In same vein, why do we want Hill to be fingering Ansar al Sharia, when we aren't doing that ourselves until we have investigation results... and the penultimate point could be abused by Members to beat the State Department for not paying attention to Agency warnings so why do we want to feed that either? Concerned...

+Jake Sullivan, Dave Adams here

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Nuland, Victoria J
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 7:16 PM
To: NSC Deputy Press Secretary; [redacted] Shawn.Turner [redacted] Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Are these for open or closed hearing? If open, the line about "knowing" there were extremists among the demonstrators will come back to us at podium -- how do we know, who were they, etc... So I'll need answers to those if we deploy that line, tx.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Vietor, Tommy [mailto:Thomas_F._Vietor[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:48 PM
To: [redacted] Shawn.Turner [redacted] Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted]

37

U.S. Senate Select Committee on
INTELLIGENCE

REVIEW

of the

TERRORIST ATTACKS ON U.S. FACILITIES IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA, SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2012

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

January 15, 2014

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

113th Congress

Exhibit 6

At approximately 1:15 a.m. Benghazi time, a seven-man reinforcement team of additional U.S. security personnel from Tripoli landed at the Benghazi airport and began to negotiate with the local Libyan militias for transportation and a security convoy.[31] Upon learning Ambassador Stevens was still missing and that the situation at the Annex had calmed, the team focused on locating the Ambassador and trying to obtain information on the security situation at the Benghazi Medical Center where he was said to be.[32] An individual at the hospital made calls from the Ambassador's cell phone to numbers stored in the phone, including to some numbers in Tripoli and to one of the RSOs. After an exchange of calls between the individual in possession of Stevens's phone and some of the Americans, the Americans became concerned that the caller could be luring U.S. personnel into an ambush at the hospital and concluded it was too risky to go to the hospital.

After more than three hours of negotiations and communications with Libyan officials who expressed concern about the security situation at the hospital, the Libyan government arranged for the Libyan Shield Militia to provide transportation and an armed escort from the airport.[33] After learning that Ambassador Stevens was almost certainly dead and that the security situation at the hospital was uncertain, the team opted to go to the Annex to support the other U.S. personnel.[34] The security team from Tripoli departed the airport for the Annex at approximately 4:30 a.m. Benghazi time.[35]

3. Attack on the CIA Annex at Approximately 5:15 a.m.

At approximately 5:00 a.m. Benghazi time, the security team from Tripoli arrived at the Annex just moments before the third attack that night. At approximately 5:15 a.m. Benghazi time, mortar rounds began to hit the Annex. Two security officers, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty, were killed when they took direct mortar fire as they engaged the enemy from the roof of the Annex.[36] The mortar fire also seriously injured one other security officer and one DS special

[31] NCTC and FBI, *The 11-12 September Attacks on US Facilities in Benghazi*, November 13, 2012, p. 6.
[32] E-mail from CIA OCA staff to Staff Director, HPSCI, et al., "Background Points used on 1 Nov," November 2, 2012, p. 1.
[33] SSCI Transcript, *Benghazi Follow Up with Staff*, May 22, 2013, p. 34.
[34] E-mail from CIA OCA staff to Staff Director, HPSCI, et al., "Background Points used on 1 Nov," November 2, 2012, p. 1.
[35] SSCI Transcript, *Benghazi Follow Up with Staff*, May 22, 2013, p. 34.
[36] NCTC and FBI, *The 11-12 September Attacks on US Facilities in Benghazi*, November 13, 2012, p. 6.

[redacted]

agent, necessitating the evacuation of the Annex.[37] That attack lasted only 11 minutes, then dissipated.[38] The mortar fire was particularly accurate, demonstrating a lethal capability and sophistication that changed the dynamic on the ground that night. According to testimony by the Chief of Base, it was only after this third wave of attacks, when the mortars hit, that he decided it was necessary to evacuate the personnel from the Annex.[39]

Less than an hour later, a heavily-armed Libyan militia unit arrived to help evacuate the Annex of all U.S. personnel to the airport. The Ambassador's body, which had been secured by a local Libyan coordinating with the State Department, was also transported from the Benghazi Medical Center to the airport. By approximately 10:00 a.m. Benghazi time, all U.S. personnel and the bodies of the four dead Americans departed from Benghazi to Tripoli.[40]

IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Warnings Before the Attacks and Failures to Provide Security

FINDING #1: In the months before the attacks on September 11, 2012, the IC provided ample strategic warning that the security situation in eastern Libya was deteriorating and that U.S. facilities and personnel were at risk in Benghazi.

The IC produced hundreds of analytic reports in the months preceding the September 11-12, 2012, attacks, providing strategic warning that militias and terrorist and affiliated groups had the capability and intent to strike U.S. and Western facilities and personnel in Libya. For example:

- On June 12, 2012, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) produced a report entitled, "Libya: Terrorists Now Targeting U.S. and Western Interests." The report noted recent attacks against the U.S. Mission compound in Benghazi,

[37] SSCI Transcript, *Member and Staff Interview of former Chief of Base*, December 20, 2012, p. 42.
[38] E-mail from CIA OCA staff to Staff Director, HPSCI, et al., "Background Points used on 1 Nov," November 2, 2012, p. 1.
[39] SSCI Transcript, *Member and Staff Interview of former Chief of Base*, December 20, 2012, p. 42, in which the Chief of Base said: "Until the mortar attack, we were pretty comfortable that we could stave off any type of ground assault on the Annex."
[40] NCTC and FBI, *The 11-12 September Attacks on US Facilities in Benghazi*, November 13, 2012, p. 7.

[redacted]

[redacted]

the growing ties between al-Qa'ida (AQ) regional nodes and Libya-based terrorists, and stated: "We expect more anti-U.S. terrorist attacks in eastern Libya [redacted], due to the terrorists' greater presence there....This will include terrorists conducting more ambush and IED [improvised explosive device] attacks as well as more threats against [redacted]."[41]

- On June 18, 2012, the Pentagon's Joint Staff produced a slide in its daily intelligence report entitled, "(U) Terrorism: Conditions Ripe for More Attacks, Terrorist Safe Haven in Libya." In the slide, the Joint Staff assessed: "[redacted] support will increase Libyan terrorist capability in the permissive post-revolution security environment. Attacks will also increase in number and lethality as terrorists connect with AQ associates in Libya. Areas of eastern Libya will likely become a safe haven by the end of 2012 [redacted]."[42]

- On July 2, 2012, DIA produced a report that discussed the founding of Ansar al-Sharia (AAS) entitled, [redacted] The report stated: [redacted][43] [redacted]."[44]

- On July 6, 2012, CIA produced a report entitled, "Libya: Al-Qa'ida Establishing Sanctuary." In the report, CIA stated: "Al-Qa'ida-affiliated groups and associates are exploiting the permissive security environment in Libya to enhance their capabilities and expand their operational reach. This year, Muhammad Jamal's Egypt-based network, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) have conducted training, built communication networks, and

[41] DIA, "Libya: Terrorists Now Targeting U.S. and Western Interests," Defense Intelligence Report, June 12, 2012.
[42] Joint Staff, "Terrorism: Conditions Ripe for More Attacks, Terrorist Safe Haven in Libya," J-2 Intelligence Update, June 18, 2012.
[43] Qumu was released from Guantanamo Bay in 2007.
[44] DIA, "[redacted]," Defense Intelligence Digest, July 2, 2012.

[redacted]

[redacted]

facilitated extremist travel across North Africa from their safe haven in parts of eastern Libya."[45]

- On August 19, 2012, the Pentagon's Joint Staff produced a slide in its daily intelligence report entitled, "(U) Libya: Terrorists to Increase Strength During Next Six Months." In the slide, the Joint Staff stated: "There are no near-term prospects for a reversal in the trend towards a terrorist safe haven in Libya, and areas of eastern Libya will likely become a broader safe haven by the end of 2012. The conditions in Libya will allow terrorists to increase attacks against Western and Libyan interests in the country, as well as attempt attacks in the region and possibly Europe in the next six months."[46]

- On September 5, 2012, AFRICOM produced a Theater Analysis Report entitled, "(U) Libya: Extremism in Libya Past, Present, and Future." The report contained a map showing how "[redacted] are actively exploiting the open operating environment in Libya." (The map is located in Appendix IV of this report). The report also noted: "Disarray in Libya's security services, and a likely focus by authorities on pursuit of Qadhafi loyalists is likely allowing jihadists in Libya freedom to recruit, train, and facilitate the movement of fighters and weapons. The threat to Western and U.S. interests and individuals remains high, particularly in northeast-Libya."[47]

- On September 7, 2012, DIA produced a report entitled, "[redacted]" that stated: "[redacted]...."[48]

FINDING #2: The State Department should have increased its security posture more significantly in Benghazi based on the deteriorating security situation on the ground and IC threat reporting on the prior attacks against

[45] CIA, "Libya: Al-Qa'ida Establishing Sanctuary," WIRe, July 6, 2012.
[46] Joint Staff, "Libya: Terrorists to Increase Strength During Next Six Months," J-2 Intelligence Update, August 19, 2012.
[47] United States Africa Command, "Libya: Extremism in Libya Past, Present, and Future," United States Africa Command Theater Analysis Report, September 5, 2012.
[48] DIA, "[redacted]," Defense Intelligence Digest, September 7, 2012.

[redacted]

- On July 9, 2012, Stevens sent a cable to State Department headquarters requesting a minimum of 13 "Temporary Duty" (TDY) U.S. security personnel for Libya, which he said could be made up of DS agents, DoD Site Security Team (SST) personnel, or some combination of the two.[61] These TDY security personnel were needed to meet the requested security posture in Tripoli and Benghazi. The State Department never fulfilled this request and, according to Eric Nordstrom, State Department headquarters never responded to the request with a cable.[62]

- In an August 16, 2012, cable to State headquarters, Stevens raised additional concerns about the deteriorating security situation in Benghazi following an Emergency Action Committee (EAC) meeting held on August 15, 2012, in Benghazi. The EAC is an interagency group convened periodically in U.S. embassies and other facilities in response to emergencies or security matters. In this case, the head State Department officer in Benghazi, called the Principal Officer, convened the meeting "to evaluate Post's tripwires in light of the deteriorating security situation in Benghazi."[63] The cable summarizing this EAC included the following points:

  (1) The Principal Officer "remarked that the security situation in Benghazi was 'trending negatively'" and "that this daily pattern of violence would be the 'new normal' for the foreseeable future, particularly given the minimal capabilities of organizations such as the Supreme Security Council and local police."

  (2) A CIA officer "briefed the EAC on the location of approximately ten Islamist militias and AQ training camps within Benghazi."

  (3) The Principal Officer and a CIA officer "expressed concerns with the lack of host nation security to support the U.S. Mission [facility]."

[61] State 12 TRIPOLI 690, July 9, 2012.
[62] SSCI Transcript, *Member and Staff Interview of Eric Nordstrom*, June 27, 2013, pp. 32 and 60.
[63] State 12 TRIPOLI 55, August 16, 2012.

[redacted]

(4) A CIA officer "expressed concerns with Post's relationship with the [redacted] [local militia], particularly in light of some of the actions taken by the brigade's subsidiary members."

(5) The Regional Security Officer "expressed concerns with the ability to defend Post in the event of a coordinated attack due to limited manpower, security measures, weapons capabilities, host nation support, and the overall size of the compound."

[redacted]

Despite the clearly deteriorating security situation in Benghazi and requests for additional security resources, few significant improvements were made by the State Department to the security posture of the Temporary Mission Facility. Although the Mission facility met the minimum personnel requirements for Diplomatic Security agents as accepted by the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli at the time of the August 15 EAC meeting (specifically, the three Diplomatic Security agents were assigned to guard the Mission compound), the Committee found no evidence that significant actions were taken by the State Department between August 15, 2012, and September 11, 2012, to increase security at the Mission facility in response to the concerns raised in that meeting.[65]

According to the report of the ARB, "there appeared to be very real confusion over who, ultimately, was responsible and empowered to make decisions based on both policy and security concerns" at the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, and the Mission facility in Benghazi.[66] The Independent Panel on Best Practices, which the ARB recommended State establish to identify best practices from other

[64] State 12 TRIPOLI 55, August 16, 2012.
[65] The Committee recognizes that there were communications between State Department employees in Libya regarding security during this time period, including an August 22, 2012, document entitled, "Security Requests for U.S. Mission Benghazi" that was sent from DS agents in Benghazi to the RSO in Tripoli that included specific requests for (1) physical security, (2) equipment, and (3) manpower. There is no indication those requests were passed on to State Department Headquarters in the form of a cable.
[66] Unclassified Report of the ARB, December 18, 2012, p. 30.

[redacted]

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT *for the* Members of the House Republican Conference *on the* Events Surrounding the September 11, 2012 Terrorist Attacks in Benghazi, Libya

Chairman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Committee on Armed Services
Chairman Ed Royce, Committe on Foreign Affairs
Chairman Bob Goodlatte, Committee on the Judiciary
Chairman Darrell Issa, Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
Chairman Mike Rogers, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

April 23, 2013

Exhibit 7

reduced security footprint was of significant concern to U.S. Ambassador to Libya Gene Cretz, who had requested the continued deployment of both MSD teams, or at least additional DS agents to replace them, and the full five DS agents for the Benghazi Mission that the December 2011 Kennedy memorandum documented would be stationed in Benghazi. His successor, Ambassador Christopher Stevens – who replaced him in May 2012 – shared Ambassador Cretz's concerns.

Critical Cables

During 2012, in numerous communications with the State Department, officials from the U.S. Mission in Libya stress both the inadequacy of security as well as the need for additional personnel. Two critical cables warrant specific mention:

• On **March 28, 2012**, Ambassador Cretz sends a cable to Secretary Clinton requesting additional security assets.

• On **April 19, 2012**, the response cable from the Department of State to Embassy Tripoli, bearing Secretary Clinton's signature, acknowledges Ambassador Cretz's request for additional security but instead articulates a plan to scale back security assets for the U.S. Mission in Libya, including the Benghazi Mission.

In addition, the April 2012 cable from Secretary Clinton recommended that the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the U.S. Mission in Libya conduct a "joint re-assessment of the number of DS agents requested for Benghazi."[14] This prompted one frustrated Embassy Tripoli employee to remark to her colleagues that it "looks like no movement on the full complement of [five DS] personnel for Benghazi, but rather a reassessment to bring the numbers lower."[15]

In May 2012, Ambassador Stevens replaced Ambassador Cretz and continued to make requests for additional security. In an email in early June, he told a State Department official that with national elections occurring in Libya in July and August, the U.S. Mission in Libya "**would feel much safer if we could keep two MSD teams with us through this period [to support] our staff and [personal detail] for me and the [Deputy Chief of Mission] and any VIP visitors.**"[16] The State Department official replied that due to other commitments and limited resources, "unfortunately, MSD cannot support the request."[17]

[14] 12 STATE 38939, April 19, 2012, Signature: CLINTON.
[15] Email from Jennifer A. Larson to Eric Nordstrom, Ambassador Gene Cretz, et al., April 21, 2012, 1:57 p.m., Subject: Re: Tripoli – Request for DS DTY and FTE Support.
[16] Email chain between Ambassador Chris Stevens and John Moretti, June 7, 2012, 3:34 a m., Subject: MSD/Tripoli.
[17] *Id.*

Appendix II: Consolidated Timeline of Events

March-October 2011

The Libyan revolution was supported by the United States most directly in the form of NATO air operations, which lasted from March through October of 2011.

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

A State Department memorandum circulated at the end of 2011 recommended that U.S. personnel remain in Benghazi. It explained that many Libyans were "strongly" in favor of a U.S. outpost in Benghazi, in part because they believed a U.S. presence in eastern Libya would ensure that the new Tripoli-based government fairly considered eastern interests.

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ambassador Cretz sent a cable to Secretary Clinton requesting additional security assets. Specifically, he asked for the continued deployment of both Mobile Security Detachment (MSD) teams, or at least additional DS agents to replace them, as well as the full five DS agents which the December 2011 memorandum claimed would be stationed in Benghazi.

Friday, April 6, 2012

The Temporary Mission Facility (TMF) in Benghazi came under attack when disgruntled Libyan contract guards allegedly threw a small improvised explosive device (IED) over the perimeter wall. No casualties were reported.

Thursday, April 19, 2012

State responded to Ambassador Cretz's request for additional security assets. The cable response to Tripoli bears Secretary Clinton's signature, and specifically acknowledges Ambassador Cretz's March 28 request for additional security. Despite the Ambassador's March request, the April cable from Clinton stipulates that the plan to drawdown security assets will proceed as planned. The cable further recommends that State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the U.S Mission in Libya conduct a "joint re-assessment of the number of DS agents requested for Benghazi."

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

The TMF was attacked again by unknown assailants who used an IED powerful enough to blow a hole in the perimeter wall. Again, no casualties were reported.

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ambassador Stevens made a personal plea for an increase in security. In a June 2012 email, he told a Department official that with national elections in July and August, the Mission "would feel much safer if we could keep two MSD teams with us through this period [to support] our staff and [personal detail] for me and the [Deputy Chief of Mission] and any VIP visitors." The

Department official replied that due to other commitments and limited resources, "unfortunately, MSD cannot support the request."

Monday, July 9, 2012

A July 2012 cable from Ambassador Stevens stressed that security conditions in Libya had not met the requisite benchmarks established by the Department and the U.S. Mission in Libya to initiate a security drawdown, and requested that security personnel, including the MSD teams, be permitted to stay. After being apprised of this pending request, Deputy Assistant Secretary Charlene Lamb exclaimed: "NO I do not [I repeat] not want them to ask for the MSD team to stay!" The MSD team was withdrawn, though it is unclear whether the Department ever formally rejected the Ambassador's July request.

Monday, June 11, 2012

Britain's ambassador to Libya was in a convoy of cars attacked in the eastern city of Benghazi. The convoy was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG). Two protection officers were injured.

Monday, August 27, 2012

U.S. officials were aware that Libya remained volatile. They were particularly concerned with the numerous armed militias that operated freely throughout the country. In August 2011, the State Department warned U.S. citizens against traveling to Libya, explaining that "inter-militia conflict can erupt at any time or any place."

- The security environment in Benghazi was similarly deteriorating throughout 2012. From June 2011 to July 2012, then-Regional Security Officer (RSO) for Libya Eric Nordstrom, the principal security adviser to the U.S. Ambassador to Libya, compiled a list of over 200 security incidents in Libya, 50 of which took place in Benghazi. These included violent acts directed against diplomats and diplomatic facilities, international organizations, and third-country nationals, as well as large-scale militia clashes.
- In spite of these mounting security concerns, for most of 2012 the Benghazi Mission was forced to rely on fewer than the approved number of DS agents. Specifically, while the State Department memorandum signed by Under Secretary Kennedy claimed that five agents would be provided, this was only the case for 23 days in 2012. Reports indicate the Benghazi Mission was typically staffed with only three agents, and sometimes as few as one or two.

Monday, September 10, 2012

Ambassador Stevens travelled to Benghazi on September 10, 2012, both to fill staffing gaps between principal officers in Benghazi, and to allow the Ambassador to reconnect with local contacts. There were also plans for him to attend the establishment of a new American Corner at a local Benghazi school.

Flashing Red: A Special Report On The Terrorist Attack At Benghazi

By
Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman
Susan M. Collins, Ranking Member

United States Senate Committee On
Homeland Security And
Governmental Affairs

December 30, 2012

Exhibit 8

Key Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1. In the months leading up to the attack on the Temporary Mission Facility in Benghazi, there was a large amount of evidence gathered by the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) and from open sources that Benghazi was increasingly dangerous and unstable, and that a significant attack against American personnel there was becoming much more likely. While this intelligence was effectively shared within the Intelligence Community (IC) and with key officials at the Department of State, it did not lead to a commensurate increase in security at Benghazi nor to a decision to close the American mission there, either of which would have been more than justified by the intelligence presented.

Security decisions concerning U.S. facilities and personnel overseas are informed by several different types of information, including classified threat reporting from the IC; cables and spot reports from U.S. diplomatic posts, which describe local incidents and threats; and publicly available information. Prior to the attack, the IC and the Department of State were aware of the overall threat landscape in Libya and the challenges facing the new Libyan government in addressing those threats. This understanding evolved over time, consistent with broader changes in the nature of the threat, and also based on reported incidents and attacks in Benghazi and other parts of Libya in 2012.

The Committee has reviewed dozens of classified intelligence reports on the evolution of threats in Libya which were issued between February 2011 and September 11, 2012. We are precluded in this report from discussing the information in detail, but overall, these intelligence reports (as the ARB similarly noted) provide a clear and vivid picture of a rapidly deteriorating threat environment in eastern Libya—one that we believe should have been sufficient to inform policy-makers of the growing danger to U.S. facilities and personnel in that part of the country and the urgency of them doing something about it. This information was effectively shared by the IC with key officials at the Department of State. For example, both the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Programs in the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Charlene Lamb, who was responsible for the security at more than 275 diplomatic facilities, and former Regional Security Officer (RSO) for Libya Eric Nordstrom, who was the principal security adviser to the U.S. Ambassador in Libya from September 21, 2011 to July 26, 2012, told the Committee that they had full access to all threat information from the IC about eastern Libya during the months before the attack of September 11, 2012.[2] Yet the Department failed to take adequate action to protect its personnel there.

This classified intelligence reporting was complemented by open-source reporting on attacks and other incidents targeting western interests in Libya during the months prior to the September 11, 2012 attack. The RSO in Libya compiled a list of 234 security incidents in Libya between June 2011 and July 2012, 50 of which took place in Benghazi.[3] The document describes an array of incidents, including large-scale militia clashes, protests involving several hundred people, and the temporary detention of non-governmental organization (NGO) workers and of U.S. diplomatic personnel in Benghazi. Under Secretary for Management Patrick Kennedy noted in a

[2] Charlene Lamb and Eric Nordstrom, interviews with Committee staff, December 2012.
[3] U.S. Embassy Tripoli, Libya, Regional Security Office, "Security Incidents since June 2011."

We anticipate that the ongoing investigation into these attacks by the FBI will provide important new details about exactly which violent Islamist extremists carried out the attack, the extent to which it was planned, and their precise motivations. But as everyone now acknowledges, there is no doubt that Benghazi was indeed a deliberate and organized terrorist attack on our nation. If the fact that Benghazi was indeed a terrorist attack had been made clear from the outset by all Administration and Executive Branch spokespeople, there would have been much less confusion and division in the public response to what happened there on September 11, 2012.

Much of the public discussion about the Benghazi attack has focused on whether a protest took place in Benghazi prior to the attack. While the IC worked feverishly in the days after the attack to identify the perpetrators of the attack, they did not place a high priority on determining with certainty whether a protest had in fact occurred. The IC's preliminary conclusion was that there had been a protest outside of the mission prior to the attack, making this assessment based on open source news reports and on other information available to intelligence agencies. The IC later revised its assessment and the Accountability Review Board has since "concluded that no protest took place before the Special Mission and Annex attacks."[113]

The unnecessary confusion in public statements about what happened that night with regards to an alleged protest should have ended much earlier than it did. Key evidence suggesting the absence of a protest was not widely shared as early as it could have been, creating or contributing to confusion over whether this was a peaceful protest that evolved into something more violent or a terrorist attack by an opportunistic enemy looking for the most advantageous moments to strike.

As early as September 15th, the Annex team that had been in Benghazi during the attack reported there had been no protest.[114] This information was apparently not shared broadly, and to the extent that it was shared, it apparently did not outweigh the evidence decribed above that there was a protest. The next day, the President of Libya's General National Congress, Mohamed Yousef el-Magariaf, also stated on the CBS News show *Face the Nation* that the attack was planned and involved Al Qaeda elements.

On September 15th and 16th, officials from the FBI conducted face-to-face interviews in Germany of the U.S. personnel who had been on the compound in Benghazi during the attack. The U.S. personnel who were interviewed saw no indications that there had been a protest prior to the attack. Information from those interviews was shared on a secure video teleconference on the afternoon of the 16th with FBI and other IC officials in Washington; it is unclear whether the question of whether a protest took place was discussed during this video conference.[115]

Information from those interviews was written into FBI FD-302 interrogation reports and sent back to the FBI headquarters. Nearly a week later, on or around September 22nd, key information from those interrogation reports was disseminated by the FBI in Intelligence Information Reports (IIRs) to other agencies within the IC.[116] By that date, however, the IC had

[113] Accountability Review Board, Department of State, December 19, 2012, 4.
[114] Acting Director Michael Morell, briefing Senator Collins, November 28, 2012.
[115] Committee member briefing, November 29, 2012.
[116] Ibid.

already received conclusive proof via other means that there had been no protest prior to the attack, in the form of video evidence from the facility's CCTV cameras.

We also found documentation that one DS agent apparently concluded there had been no protest as early as September 18th.[117] On that date, a State Department DS agent who had seen national press reporting about the attacks asked an agent at the DS Command Center in an email, "Was there any rioting in Benghazi reported prior to the attack?" The reply from the Command Center agent: "Zip, nothing, nada."

Recommendation: When terrorists attack our country, either at home or abroad, Administration officials should speak clearly and consistently about what has happened. While specific details and a full accounting cannot be provided until the government has completed its investigation, the fact that a terrorist attack occurred must be communicated with clarity.

Finding 10. As discussed earlier, the talking points about the September 11th attack in Benghazi which were issued by the Intelligence Community on September 14th in response to a request by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, were the subject of much of the confusion and division in the discussion of the attack. That confusion and division were intensified by the fact that the talking points were issued before the IC had a high degree of confidence about what happened in Benghazi and in the midst of a national political campaign.

Recommendation: While the Intelligence Community's primary mission is to inform the appropriate officials of the executive and legislative branches of our government about events that affect our security, it is not the responsibility of the IC to draft talking points for public consumption – especially in the heat of a political campaign – and we therefore recommend that the IC decline to do so in the future.

Conclusion

The deaths of Ambassador Stevens and three other Americans at the hands of terrorists is a tragic reminder that the fight our country is engaged in with Islamist extremists and terrorists is not over. U.S. and Western diplomats, and other personnel operating in the Middle East and other countries where these terrorists use violence to further their extremist agenda and thwart democratic reforms are increasingly at risk.

We hope this report will help contribute to the ongoing discussion that our nation must have about how best to protect the brave men and women who serve our country abroad and how to win this war that will continue for years to come. We owe it to our public servants abroad to protect them as they work to protect us. The government of the U.S. failed tragically to fulfill that responsibility in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. We hope the findings and recommendations we have made in this Special Report will help ensure that such a failure never happens again.

[117] REDACTED, e-mail message on September 18, 2012.

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 17 2014

Case No. F-2012-38774

Ms. Kate Bailey
Judicial Watch
425 Third Street SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Bailey:

I refer to our letter dated February 24, 2014, regarding the release of certain Department of State records under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

We have identified 41 additional documents that are responsive to your request. Of these documents, we have determined that 25 may be released in full and 16 may be released with excisions pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(5) and (b)(6). Additionally, upon further consideration, we have determined that additional information may be released in 3 documents that were previously released in part. An enclosure explains Freedom of Information Act exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. All released material is enclosed.

Review of records of the United States Mission to the United Nations is now complete. If you have any questions, you may contact Department of Justice attorney Robert Prince at (202) 305-3654. Please be sure to refer to the case number, F-2012-38774, and the civil action number, 13-951, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

John H. Hackett, Acting Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures:
As stated.

Exhibit 9

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

Ryu, Rexon Y

From: Rhodes, Benjamin J. [Benjamin_J._Rhodes@] B6
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 8:09 PM
To: Vega, Dag; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Plouffe, David; Pfeiffer, Dan; Carney, Jay; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Govashiri, Ferial; Ledbetter, Howli J.; Selak, Dawn; Brundage, Daniel; Pelton, Erin; Alhassani, Mehdi K.
Subject: RE: PREP CALL with Susan: Saturday at 4:00 pm ET

RELEASED IN PART B6

Goals:

- To convey that the United States is doing everything that we can to protect our people and facilities abroad;
- To underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy;
- To show that we will be resolute in bringing people who harm Americans to justice, and standing steadfast through these protests;
- To reinforce the President and Administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.

Top-lines:

- Since we began to see protests in response to this Internet video, the President has directed the Administration to take a number of steps. His top priority has been the safety and security of all Americans serving abroad.
- First, we have significantly increased security at our diplomatic posts around the globe, with additional resources from across the government. The safety and security of our personnel is paramount and under constant review.
- Second, we have reached out to governments in the region to make sure they are cooperating closely with us, and meeting their obligations to protect diplomatic facilities as best they can. For instance, we've seen cooperation from Yemen and Egypt cooperate significantly after President Obama called those leaders.
- Third, we've made our views on this video crystal clear. The United States government had nothing to do with it. We reject its message and its contents. We find it disgusting and reprehensible. But there is absolutely no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence. And we are working to make sure that people around the globe hear that message.
- Fourth, we've encouraged leaders around the globe to speak out against the violence, and you've seen very important statements in the Muslim world by people like Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey, President Morsi of Egypt, and others who have condemned the violence and called for a peaceful response.
- I think that people have come to trust that President Obama provides leadership that is steady and statesmanlike. There are always going to be challenges that emerge around the world, and time and again he's shown that we can meet them.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

Q: Are you concerned that our relationship with Egypt and other Muslim countries is quickly deteriorating? Is the Arab Spring now about hatred of America? Did President Obama lose the Arab World?

I think we need to step back a bit. The Arab Spring was about people across the region rising up to demand their basic rights. The protests we've seen these last few days were sparked by a disgusting and reprehensible video.

The fact is, this is a time of extraordinary change in the Arab World. But we've been able to build cooperative relationships with these new governments.

You saw that in Libya, where there's been full cooperation with the United States and an outpouring of support for Chris Stevens and the work that he did.

You saw that in Egypt, where President Obama was able to call President Morsi directly, which led to the Egyptians calling for calm and providing much more security at our Embassy.

So this part of the world has been faced with unrest many times in recent decade. But we're going to keep moving forward, and we believe that strong U.S. leadership can lead to a region that is more stable and more responsive to the people.

Q: Have you failed to articulate a policy for dealing with the Arab Spring?

You have heard the President articulate a very consistent set of principles and support for universal rights as the Arab Spring has unfolded. We support the process of nonviolent political and economic change and reform in the region. Of course, that process will look different in different countries.

There are countries where that transition has occurred, like Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia, and we're working to help them consolidate their democracies, deal with security needs, and stabilize their economies.

In other places like Syria that are still in throes of revolution, we have opposed the brutality of the regime and are supporting the aspirations of the people.

While this process unfolds, this President has left no doubt that he will continue to protect our other interests – destroying al Qaeda, bringing our men and women in uniform home from Afghanistan, and strengthening our leadership in the world.

But the Arab Spring is going to take time to play out. This is an enormous change. And that is why we need to stay focused and firm on behalf of our principles, as the President has done.

Q: What's your response to the Independent story that says we have intelligence 48 hours in advance of the Benghazi attack that was ignored? Was this an intelligence failure?

We are not aware of any actionable intelligence indicating that an attack on the U.S. Mission in Benghazi was planned or imminent. The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex.

Q: Can you explain to us again the President's comment about why Egypt was not an ally?

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

Egypt is a critical partner of the United States. As you know, the President had an important conversation with President Morsi about the need to protect our embassy and personnel in Cairo, and the need to denounce the violence.

President Morsi expressed his condolences for the tragic loss of American life in Libya and emphasized that Egypt would honor its obligation to ensure the safety of American personnel. The President is very appreciative for the statement President Morsi made and for the actions he's taken to date to secure our Embassy.

This was not an effort to change our relationship with Egypt in any way. We have had a long-standing partnership with Egypt, and have supported their transition to democracy. We are now working to build our relationship with what is obviously a new government.

If Pressed: I'm not here to get into a long exchange about diplomatic terminology. The President has made it clear that Egypt is a close partner of the United States, and that we have expectations that the Egyptian government will meet its obligations to protect our facilities.

Q: Romney's advisor said that these protests wouldn't have happened under President Romney?

Well I'm not here to talk politics. Events abroad are unpredictable. Foreign policy challenges emerge no matter who is President. And I think that people have come to expect steady, statesmanlike leadership from this President on national security, and his response to these protests is no different

Israel / Iran

IRAN

Q: Is there a split between the United States and Israel on redlines? What are the U.S. redlines with Iran?

The President has been clear that he is determined to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and that all options are on the table in pursuit of that goal. We share the same objective as the Israelis, and there is no daylight between us on that matter of stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

The question of when we would consider a resort to military action involves multiple variables and would be shaped by conditions on the ground. We will continue our unprecedented security consultation and cooperation with the Israelis as we move forward.

This President is not going to take military action unless it is absolutely necessary. But I think the Iranians know full well that he is committed to preventing them from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Q: Did the President rebuff Prime Minister Netanyahu's request for a red line?

The President has always been clear about his red line. He is determined to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and that all options are on the table in pursuit of that goal. We share the same objective as the Israelis, and there is no daylight between us on that matter of stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Q: Why did the President refuse to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu at UNGA?

President Obama is in frequent contact with the Prime Minister, as you would expect given his commitment to Israel's security and the range of challenges in the region. And when they need to speak to each other – they do so. We also talk regularly to our Israeli counterparts at all levels of government.

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

Just the other day, when reports of tension came up in the press, the President was able to pick up the phone and call the Prime Minister and speak to him for an hour. They agreed on their commitment to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. And they agreed to stay in close contact in the days to com

They did look at whether it would be possible to meet. But the fact is, they're just not going to be in New York at the same time – the President will be there at the beginning of the week, Bibi will be there at the end of the week. So their schedules just don't match up.

If pressed: Did he seek a meeting in Washington?

My understanding is there wasn't a request to meet in Washington. What I know is that they're not in New York at the same time during UNGA. I don't have any other scheduling updates, but I am certain that they'll remain in close contact

---

From: Vega, Dag
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 7:11 PM
To: Rhodes, Benjamin J.; Vietor, Tommy; Plouffe, David; Pfeiffer, Dan; Carney, Jay; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Govashiri, Ferial; Ledbetter, Howli J.; Selak, Dawn; Brundage, Daniel; PeltonE@state.gov; Alhassani, Mehdi K.
Subject: PREP CALL with Susan: Saturday at 4:00 pm ET

We plan to hold a call on Saturday at 4:00 PM ET to help prepare Susan for her interviews on the Sunday shows. She will appear on all of them.

Here are the numbers:
Phone Number: 202-395-6392
asscode: 498-3561

Here are the promos.

NBC MEET THE PRESS

Obama's Foreign Policy Test
The race between President Obama and Governor Romney has entered new territory as the deadly attack on a U.S. consulate and the continuing anti-American protests overseas have forced foreign policy back into the spotlight. How does the Obama administration plan to respond? Plus, is the U.S. still a reliable ally to Israel against Iran? U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice will join us.

ABC THIS WEEK

After four Americans were killed Tuesday, including U.S. ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens, in an assault on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, questions remain about what sparked the violence – a controversial anti-Islamic film, or a planned attack by Al Qaeda militants? As American embassies throughout the region remain under fire, did the U.S. do enough to prevent attacks in Libya, Egypt, and Yemen? How will the ongoing protests and violence across the region impact U.S. relations and standing in the Middle East?

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice speaks to ABC News senior White House correspondent Jake Tapper, Sunday on "This Week."

CBS FACE THE NATION

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice
The latest on what's happening abroad and what it means for the region and the international community with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice.

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Anti-US protests are spreading across the Arab world days after a deadly attack on the consulate in Libya. What should the US involvement be in the trouble region? Chris Wallace discusses the situation with Susan Rice, the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

Din, Susan W

From: Pelton, Erin
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 2:21 PM
To: Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelofsky, Eric J
Subject: Re: SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

Please do--I have not reached out.

Best,
Erin

RELEASED IN PART
B1,B5,1.4(G),1.4(D)

From: Ryu, Rexon Y
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 02:15 PM
To: Pelofsky, Eric J; Pelton, Erin
Subject: Re: SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

I'm going to email Jake on the libya points eric references below unless either of you are linked in to this effort. Pls let me know.

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS 4-17-2014 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), 1.4(G), B1 ~ Declassify on: 09/15/2027

From: Pelofsky, Eric J
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 01:23 PM
To: Rice, Susan E (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Pelton, Erin
Cc: Rangarajan, Taara A
Subject: SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

B5

1.4(D)
1.4(G)
B1
B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2012-38774 Doc No. C05415286 Date: 04/17/2014
Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

B5

1.4(D)
1.4(G)
B1
B5

Libya:

1.4(D)
1.4(G)
B1
B5

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2012-38774 Doc No. C05415286 Date: 04/17/2014

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

- HPSCI request! Late this week, CIA Director Petraeus gave the HPSCI a hots spots briefing and was asked for unclassified talking points that its members could use about incident in Benghazi. (Apparently NCTC Director Matt Olson received a similar committee from a congressional committee.) The first draft apparently seemed unsuitable (based on conversations on the SVTS and afterwards) because they seemed to encourage the reader to infer incorrectly that the CIA had warned about a specific attack on our embassy. On the SVTS, Morell noted that these points were not good and he had taken a heavy editing hand to them. He noted that he would be happy to work with Jake Sullivan and Rhodes to develop appropriate talking points. McDonough, on Rhodes's behalf, deferred to Sullivan. It was agreed that Jake would work closely with the intelligence community (within a small group) to finalize points on Saturday that could be shared with HPSCI. I spoke to Jake immediately after the SVTS and noted that you were doing the Sunday morning shows and would need to be aware of the final posture that these points took. He committed to ensure that we were updated in advance of the Sunday shows. I specifically mentioned Erin Pelton as the one coordinating your preparations for the shows and also strongly encouraged him to loop in Rexon during the process.

B5

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2012-38774 Doc No. C05415781 Date: 04/17/2014
Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

Din, Susan W

From: Knopf, Payton L (USUN)
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 5:42 PM
To: Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A; Pascal, Alexander J (USUN); Pan, Michael (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelofsky, Eric J; Singh, Priya (USUN); Rangarajan, Taara A; Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Ried, Curtis R (USUN)
Cc: Pelton, Erin; Cooper, Kurtis A; McPhillips, Alex (USUN)
Subject: Toria Nuland backgrounder on Libya

RELEASED IN FULL

Toria Nuland and DoD spokesman George Little did a background briefing for press a few minutes ago. I thought folks might find some of the details interesting—particularly the tick-tock—even if some of it has come via other channels, so a non-verbatim summary is below.

4pm EST: Compound begins taking fire from Libyan extremists. Two buildings on compound: a main building and an annex.

4:15pm EST: Extremists gain access and began firing into main building, setting it on fire. Libyan guard force and US security personnel respond. Three people inside building at that time: RSO, Stevens, and Smith. The three became separated while trying to evacuate due to the smoke. RSO made it outside and then he and security personnel returned to rescue Stevens and Smith. Found Smith dead and pulled him from building; were unable to locate Stevens before they were drawn from building because of smoke and small arms fire.

4:45pm EST: Security personnel again tried to gain access to main building but had to return to annex because of fire.

530pm EST: Security personnel made another attempt, gained access, and secured the main building. They evacuated rest of personnel into safe haven zones.

;:00pm EST: Annex came under fire for 2 hours; during that time, 2 additional U.S. personnel were killed and 2 wounded.

830pm EST: Libyan security forces were able to assist in regaining control of the compound. At some point (we don't know when), Stevens got out of the building and was taken to the hospital. The body was later returned to U.S. personnel at Benghazi airport.

Q & A: REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

--Toria declined to go into details about how Stevens' personal security detail responded because we don't discuss security operations.

--When asked if she could confirm if Stevens was alive when he was left the compound and was taken to the hospital and if the cause of death was smoke inhalation, Toria reiterated that we are no clear on the circumstances between when Stevens was separated from the group inside the building and when we were notified that his body was in a Benghazi hospital. We were not able to see his body until it was returned at the airport. Toria said that we can't comment on the cause of death until an autopsy can be performed.

--Responding to a question about whether it was an organized terror attack, Toria said that she couldn't speak to the identity of the perpetrators but that it was clearly a complex attack. There will be a full investigation with which the FBI is assisting.

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2012-38774 Doc No. C05415781 Date: 04/17/2014

Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. via FOIA

that he was brought to the hospital by Libyans who found him. She said no Americans were responsible for taking him to the hospital and no US personnel saw him there.

-When asked when Embassy Cairo issued its statement, Toria said that she could unequivocally say that it was not coordinated with Washington and was therefore taken down. She said that it was her understanding that it was initially [illegible]ed around noon Cairo time, which was before the protests in Cairo began.

-Responding to a question about whether the attack was linked to the Mohammed video, she said that she could not confirm a connect as we simply don't know—and we won't know until there's an investigation.

-George Little confirmed that Gen. Dempsey spoke to Pastor Jones today and asked him to withdrawal his support for the video. Jones was non-committal.

-Responding to a question about when Stevens died, Toria said we don't know. She said that we've seen Libyan reports that he was unconscious when first found, was taken to the hospital, and then later passed.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 8/2/2012 5:22:18 AM
To: [illegible]
Subject: REQUEST TO ADD LES AMBASSADOR PROTECTIVE DETAIL BODYGUARD POSITIONS IN US EMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLASSIFIED
SBU

MRN:	12 TRIPOLI 844
Date/DTG:	Aug 02, 2012 / 021202Z AUG 12
From:	AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
Action:	SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
E.O.:	13526
TAGS:	ASEC, AMGT, AFIN
Captions:	SENSITIVE
Reference:	12 TRIPOLI 820
Pass Line:	DS/IP/NEA, NEA/SOA, AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI, MGT, FMO
Correction Reason:	CORRECTED COPY 2: SUBJECT LINE CORRECTED
Subject:	REQUEST TO ADD LES AMBASSADOR PROTECTIVE DETAIL BODYGUARD POSITIONS IN US EMBASSY TRIPOLI

(SBU) Summary and Action Request: Embassy Tripoli requests 11 LES bodyguard positions be added to the current roster of 24 APD members. The augmented roster will fill the vacuum of security personnel currently at Post on TDY status who will be leaving within the next month and will not be replaced. These TDY officers include members of DS MSD, SST, and DS TDY special agents. Due to the level of threat in regards to Crime, Political Violence, and Terrorism, Post feels this is an appropriate number of LES security personnel needed to further Embassy diplomatic outreach missions performed by Foreign Service (FSO) and other USG officers. Post appreciates ongoing efforts by DS to meet and fulfill our security standards. End summary and action request.

(SBU) The security condition in Libya remains unpredictable, volatile, and violent. Though certain goals have been successfully met, such as the national election for a representative Parliament who will draft the new Libyan Constitution, violent security incidents continue to take place due to the lack of a coherent national Libyan security force and the strength of local militias and large numbers of armed groups.

(SBU) Post has made several procedural security and physical upgrades to the interim US Embassy compounds. However, host nation security support is lacking and cannot be depended on to provide a safe and secure environment for the diplomatic mission of outreach performed by FSO and other USG personnel on the ground.

Exhibit 11

From: [redacted]
Sent: 7/9/2012 9:15:06 AM
To: evsSMARTBTSPCPS
Subject: TRIPOLI -- Request for extension of TDY security personnel
Attachments: Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED
SBU

MRN: 12 TRIPOLI 652
Date/DTG: Jul 09, 2012 / 091312Z JUL 12
From: AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATEROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: ASEC, AMGT, MARR, LY
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) 12 TRIPOLI 592 - INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND SECURITY CONCERNS
B) 12 TRIPOLI 522 ? LIBYA'S FRAGILE SECURITY DETERIORATES
C) 12 TRIPOLI 585 ? TRIPOLI - EAC - 06/20/2012
D) 12 TRIPOLI 37 ? TRIPOLI EAC
E) 12 TRIPOLI 512 ? TRIPOLI EAC
F) 12 TRIPOLI 39 ? TRIPOLI EAC
G) 12 TRIPOLI 604 - MISSION LIBYA- UPDATED TRIPWIRES
Subject: TRIPOLI -- Request for extension of TDY security personnel

1. (SBU) Summary and Action Request: Embassy Tripoli requests continued TDY security support for an additional 60-days, through mid-September 2012. Post assesses a minimum of 13 TDY U.S. security personnel, either DS MSD, domestically assigned HT trained DS agents, DS SPS, or DOD/SST personnel or a combination of these personnel, are required to maintain current transportation security and incident response capability while we transition to a locally based security support structure. Post also requests continued TDY support of 2 DS agents until the RSO reaches a planned full-time staffing level of five (5) agents. These TDY security needs do not include MSD security personnel involved exclusively in training the local guard force (LGF) and LES close protection team/bodyguards. Post understands and appreciates ongoing efforts by DS to identify and deploy TDY resources to meet our security needs during the next 60-90 days. End summary and action request.

2. (SBU) Conditions in Libya have not met prior benchmarks established by Post, the Department, and AFRICOM, for a complete drawdown of TDY security personnel. Overall security conditions continue to be unpredictable, with large numbers of armed groups and individuals not under control of the central government, and frequent clashes in Tripoli and other major population centers. National parliamentary elections have been delayed from 6/19 to 7/7, with post expecting an increased likelihood of election related political violence during and after the election period.

3. (SBU) While post has made a number of procedural security enhancement and physical security upgrades, our

Exhibit 12

From: [redacted]
Sent: 3/28/2012 8:15:05 AM
To: svcSMARTATSPORS
Subject: REQUEST FOR DS TDY AND FTE SUPPORT
Attachments: Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED
SBU

MRN: 12 TRIPOLI 130
Date/DTG: Mar 28, 2012 / 280648Z MAR 12
From: AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE[illegible]
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: ASEC, ANGT, LY
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: 12 TRIPOLI 94
Pass Line: STATE FOR DS/IP/NEA AND NEA/EX
Correction Reason: CORRECTED COPY. Refel added.
Subject: REQUEST FOR DS TDY AND FTE SUPPORT

1. (SBU) SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: As Tripoli seeks to transition from emergency to normalized security operations, post and the RSO face a considerable workload in a constantly evolving environment. Accomplishment of RSO's core objectives -- essential support for movement security, including continuing high volume of senior-level visits; rebuilding and expanding post's PSA Local Guard Force (LGF); managing major physical security projects; creating a locally engaged bodyguard force; and establishing traditional RSO programs -- requires continued TDY support from the Department, as well as an increase in the number of our permanently assigned RSO staff. In order to transition successfully from the current MSD and SST-based security model to one that incorporates more locally based and non-emergency assets, post requests: 12 TDY DS agents for 45-60 day rotations in Tripoli (to replace our two departing MSD teams); 5 TDY DS agents for 45-60 day rotations in Benghazi; continued deployment of one MSD team through completion of training of our second LES bodyguard team (o/a July 1); one TDY ARSO from April 1 til July 1; and one WAE TDY'er to assist with LGF program development and emergency planning. In addition, post requests an increase in full-time staffing for RSO Tripoli to include: one RSO, one Deputy RSO, and four ARSOs. Post is extremely grateful for the extraordinary support provided by DS as we transition to normalized security operations. End summary and action request.

2. (SBU) As noted in our EAC reports and regular DS spot reports, the security environment in Tripoli remains uncertain and unstable. Although there has been a marked decrease in the number of militia checkpoints around Tripoli, the Transitional National Council (TNC) has not yet succeeded in demobilizing the multiple militias or bringing them into a centralized command and control structure. This uncertain environment is likely to continue through the entire transition cycle, which as outlined in the TNC's constitutional charter, is

Exhibit 13

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The VA's Bo Culture

OPINION

Gregory Hicks: Benghazi and the Smearing of Chris Stevens

Shifting blame to our dead ambassador is wrong on the facts. I know—I was there.

Email Print 726 Comments

By GREGORY N. HICKS

Jan. 22, 2014 7:18 p.m. ET

Last week the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence issued its report on the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya. The report concluded that the attack, which resulted in the murder of four Americans, was "preventable." Some have been suggesting that the blame for this tragedy lies at least partly with Ambassador Chris Stevens, who was killed in the attack. This is untrue: The blame lies entirely with Washington.

The report states that retired Gen. Carter Ham, then-commander of the U.S. Africa Command (Africom) headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, twice offered to "sustain" the special forces security team in Tripoli and that Chris twice "declined." Since Chris cannot speak, I want to explain the reasons and timing for his responses to Gen. Ham. As the deputy chief of mission, I was kept informed by Chris or was present throughout the process.

On Aug. 1, 2012, the day after I arrived in Tripoli, Chris invited me to a video conference with Africom to discuss changing the mission of the U.S. Special Forces from protecting the U.S. Embassy and its personnel to training Libyan forces. This change in mission would result in the transfer of authority over the unit in Tripoli from Chris to Gen. Ham. In other words, the special forces would report to the Defense Department, not State.

Chris wanted the decision postponed but could not say so directly. Chris had requested on July 9 by cable that Washington provide a minimum of 13 American security professionals for Libya over and above the diplomatic security complement of eight assigned to Tripoli and Benghazi. On July 11, the Defense Department, apparently in response to Chris's request, offered to extend the special forces mission to protect the U.S. Embassy.

However, on July 13, State Department Undersecretary Patrick Kennedy refused the Defense Department offer and thus Chris's July 9 request. His rationale was that Libyan guards would be hired to take over this responsibility. Because of Mr. Kennedy's refusal, Chris had to use diplomatic language at the video conference, such as expressing "reservations" about the transfer of authority.

Chris's concern was significant. Transferring authority would immediately strip the

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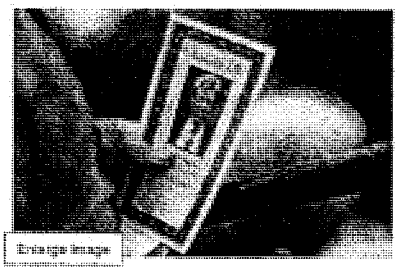
ARTICLES

1 Opinion: Noonan: The VA Scandal Is a Crisis of Leadership



At a memorial service for U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens in San Francisco, Oct. 18, 2012. *Reuters*

special forces team of its diplomatic immunity. Moreover, the U.S. had no status of forces agreement with Libya. He explained to Rear Adm. Charles J. Leidig that if a member of the special forces team used weapons to protect U.S. facilities, personnel or themselves, he would be subject to Libyan law. The law would be administered by judges appointed to the bench by Moammar Gadhafi or, worse, tribal judges.

Chris described an incident in Pakistan in 2011 when an American security contractor killed Pakistani citizens in self-defense, precipitating a crisis in U.S.-Pakistani relations. He also pointed out that four International Criminal Court staff, who had traveled to Libya in June 2012 to interview Gadhafi's oldest son, Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi, were illegally detained by tribal authorities under suspicion of spying. This was another risk U.S. military personnel might face.

During that video conference, Chris stressed that the only way to mitigate the risk was to ensure that U.S. military personnel serving in Libya would have diplomatic immunity, which should be done prior to any change of authority.

Chris understood the importance of the special forces team to the security of our embassy personnel. He believed that by explaining his concerns, the Defense Department would postpone the decision so he could have time to work with the Libyan government and get diplomatic immunity for the special forces.

According to the National Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Department needed Chris's concurrence to change the special forces mission. But soon after the Aug. 1 meeting, and as a complete surprise to us at the embassy, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta signed the order without Chris's concurrence.

The SenateIntelligence Committee's report accurately notes that on Aug. 6, after the transfer of authority, two special forces team members in a diplomatic vehicle were forced off the road in Tripoli and attacked. Only because of their courage, skills and training did they escape unharmed. But the incident highlighted the risks associated with having military personnel in Libya unprotected by diplomatic immunity or a status of forces agreement. As a result of this incident, Chris was forced to agree with Gen. Ham's withdrawal of most of the special forces team from Tripoli until the Libyan government formally approved their new training mission and granted them diplomatic immunity.

Because Mr. Kennedy had refused to extend the special forces security mission, State Department protocol required Chris to decline Gen. Ham's two offers to do so, which were made after Aug. 6. I have found the reporting of these so-called offers strange, since my recollection of events is that after the Aug. 6 incident, Gen. Ham wanted to withdraw the entire special forces team from Tripoli until they had Libyan government approval of their new mission and the diplomatic immunity necessary to perform their mission safely. However, Chris convinced Gen. Ham to leave six members of the team in Tripoli.

When I arrived in Tripoli on July 31, we had over 30 security personnel, from the State Department and the U.S. military, assigned to protect the diplomatic mission to Libya. All were under the ambassador's authority. On Sept. 11, we had only nine diplomatic security agents under Chris's authority to protect our diplomatic personnel in Tripoli and Benghazi.

I was interviewed by the Select Committee and its staff, who were professional and

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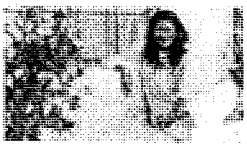

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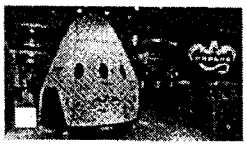

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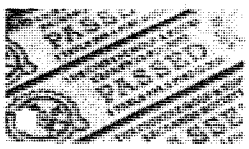

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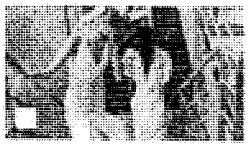

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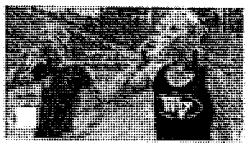

5 Caxirola Says Move Over, Vuvuzela

thorough. I explained this sequence of events. For some reason, my explanation did not make it into the Senate report.

To sum up: Chris Stevens was not responsible for the reduction in security personnel. His requests for additional security were denied or ignored. Officials at the State and Defense Departments in Washington made the decisions that resulted in reduced security. Sen. Lindsey Graham stated on the Senate floor last week that Chris "was in Benghazi because that is where he was supposed to be doing what America wanted him to do: Try to hold Libya together." He added, "Quit blaming the dead guy."

Mr. Hicks served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli from July 31 to Dec. 7, 2012.

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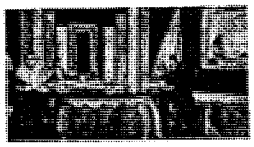
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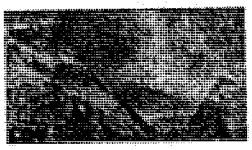
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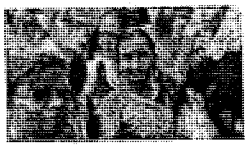
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HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S RESPONSE TO THE ATTACK ON U.S. FACILITIES IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA, AND THE FINDINGS OF ITS INTERNAL REVIEW FOLLOWING THE ATTACK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m. in room SDG–50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator Carl Levin (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Senators Levin, Reed, Nelson, McCaskill, Udall, Hagan, Manchin, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, King, Inhofe, McCain, Chambliss, Wicker, Ayotte, Graham, Vitter, Blunt, Lee, and Cruz.

Committee staff members present: Richard D. DeBobes, staff director; Leah C. Brewer, nominations and hearings clerk; and Barry C. Walker, security officer.

Majority staff members present: Joseph M. Bryan, professional staff member; Jonathan D. Clark, counsel; Richard W. Fieldhouse, professional staff member; Michael J. Kuiken, professional staff member; Peter K. Levine, general counsel; Jason W. Maroney, counsel; Thomas K. McConnell, professional staff member; William G.P. Monahan, counsel; Michael J. Noblet, professional staff member; John H. Quirk V, professional staff member; and Russell L. Shaffer, counsel.

Minority staff members present: Adam J. Barker, professional staff member; Christian D. Brose, professional staff member; Thomas W. Goffus, professional staff member; Anthony J. Lazarski, professional staff member; Daniel A. Lerner, professional staff member; and Lucian L. Niemeyer, professional staff member.

Staff assistants present: Jennifer R. Knowles, Kathleen A. Kulenkampff, Brian F. Sebold, and Lauren M. Gillis.

Committee members' assistants present: Carolyn Chuhta, assistant to Senator Reed; Jeffrey Fatora, assistant to Senator Bill Nelson; Jason Rauch, assistant to Senator McCaskill; Brian Nagle, assistant to Senator Hagan; Mara Boggs, assistant to Senator Manchin; Chad Kreikemeier, assistant to Senator Shaheen; Elana Broitman, assistant to Senator Gillibrand; Ethan Saxon, assistant to Senator Blumenthal; Marta McLellan Ross, assistant to Senator

Exhibit 15

had that knowledge—and I recognize that is a hypothetical, but if we had that knowledge—what military options would there have been to prevent that loss of life and to stop that attack at the annex?

Secretary PANETTA. Senator, as you said, it's tough to respond to a hypothetical. As long as we're talking about hypotheticals, the best that would have happened here is that we would have had a heads-up and we would have had troops on the ground to protect that facility. That's the best scenario and that's what works the best.

Once an attack takes place, the biggest problem you have is getting accurate information about exactly what is taking place in order to then develop what response you need to do it. You can't just willy-nilly send F–16s there and blow the hell out of a place without knowing what's taking place. You can't send AC–130s there and blow the hell out of a target without knowing what's taking place. You've got to be able to have good information about what is taking place in order to be able to effectively respond.

Senator CRUZ. So in your judgment, if I understand you correctly, the most effective means would have been to have boots on the ground?

Secretary PANETTA. That's correct.

Senator CRUZ. If—and again this is a hypothetical—at 9:42 p.m. you had received a direct order to have boots on the ground to defend our men and women there, what is the absolute fastest that could have been carried out?

General DEMPSEY. Well, based on the posture, our posture at the time, it would have been N plus 6 plus transit time with the closest ground force available. So you're looking at something best case between 13 and 15 hours.

Senator CRUZ. So if I understand your testimony correctly, in your military judgment there was no way conceivably to get troops on the ground sooner than 13 to 15 hours?

General DEMPSEY. That's correct.

Senator CRUZ. How about assets like an AC–130. If you had received an order at the outset to deploy an aircraft like an AC–130, what would have been the absolute fastest it could have arrived at Benghazi?

General DEMPSEY. I don't even know exactly where they were, but I know there were no AC–130s anywhere near North Africa that night.

Senator CRUZ. I'd like to also spend a few moments on the decisionmaking as this crisis unfolded. I take it neither of you received the hypothetical order at any point to get boots on the ground immediately?

Secretary PANETTA. No, that's right.

Senator CRUZ. Now, both of you mentioned that at 5 p.m. D.C. time you met with President Obama for a regularly scheduled meeting, during which you discussed the attack at Benghazi that had happened about an hour and 20 minutes earlier. You said the total meeting lasted roughly 30 minutes. How much of the meeting would you estimate covered Benghazi?

Secretary PANETTA. We teed up that issue when we walked into the Oval Office, so I would say that the first 15 or 20 minutes was

spent on the concern about that, as well as Cairo and what might happen there.

Senator CRUZ. After that 15 or 20 minutes discussion of Benghazi, do I understand your testimony correct that neither of you had any subsequent conversations with the President the rest of that day and that evening?

Secretary PANETTA. We continued to talk. I think we teed up some other issues that we were dealing with at the time to inform the President, and then once that concluded we both went back to the Pentagon and immediately I ordered the deployment of these forces into place.

Senator CRUZ. In between 9:42 p.m. Benghazi time when the first attack started and 5:15 a.m. when Mr. Doherty and Mr. Woods lost their lives, what conversations did either of you have with Secretary Clinton?

Secretary PANETTA. We did not have any conversations with Secretary Clinton.

Senator CRUZ. General Dempsey, the same is true for you?

General DEMPSEY. Yes.

Senator CRUZ. One final question because my time has expired. Senator Lee asked you about securing the compound and noted that it took some 23 days to do so, and I think to the astonishment of many viewers, we had CNN News crews discovering what appeared to be sensitive documents, rather than U.S. forces or law enforcement.

I just want to make sure I understood your answer correctly, in that you said that you were not requested to secure the compound and had you been requested to secure the compound in your judgment the U.S. military could have done so and it could have done so effectively?

Secretary PANETTA. Yes.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you, Senator Cruz.

Senator Hagan.

Senator HAGAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary Panetta, as I'm sure everybody said, this is your last time before this committee. We certainly want to take an opportunity to thank you for your extraordinary service as Secretary and all the other accolades and services that you have provided to the people of the United States. So I too want to echo my sincere thanks.

General Dempsey, thank you too for your continued service as we go forward.

The September 11 attack drew attention to the use of local militia by the Department of State for protection in Benghazi. On the night of the attack, security consisted of three armed militia members as well as four locally hired unarmed guards and five armed Diplomatic Security agents. I understand that the three militia personnel were members of the February 17th Martyrs Brigade, which is a local militia that participated in the anti-Qadafi uprising.

Documents recovered from the post indicated that, while the local militias trained with U.S. officials for this role, militia mem-

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NEWS ARTICLE

Panetta Strongly Condemns Benghazi Attack

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12, 2012 – Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta condemned yesterday's attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi in the "strongest possible terms," a senior government official said today.

"The secretary also extends his deepest sympathies to the families of the victims and to the entire State Department family," the official said.

Panetta joined President Barack Obama and Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton in condemning the attacks that killed U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service information management officer Sean Smith and two others whose names are being withheld until State Department officials notify their families. Three other Americans were wounded in the attack.

"The Department of Defense is ready to respond with additional military measures as directed by the president," the official added.

Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of the U.S. Africa Command based in Stuttgart, Germany, briefed Panetta last night on the situation in Benghazi, the official said. The secretary has since received regular updates.

"DOD is working closely with the White House and the State Department to provide all necessary resources to support the security of U.S. personnel in Libya," the official said.

"This support includes a Marine Corps fleet antiterrorism security team based out of Europe," he said, adding that the team's mission is to secure the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli and protect U.S. citizens.

DOD is also providing support to evacuate American personnel and casualties out of Libya, the official added.

"Those individuals and the remains of our fallen colleagues will arrive, if they haven't already done so, at Ramstein [Air Base] and Landstuhl [Regional Medical Center] in Germany," the official said.

This morning, the official said, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, placed a call to Pastor Terry Jones about a film by a U.S. producer that is insulting to the Prophet Mohammed.

Jones, pastor of the fundamentalist Christian Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, Fla., is known for his 2010 plan to burn Qur'ans, the scripture of the Islamic religion, on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. According to news reports, he also supports the recent film.

The film also was reported to have caused protests by angry crowds yesterday at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

"I can confirm that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Martin Dempsey, spoke by phone this morning with Pastor Jones," the official said.

"This was a brief call in which Gen. Dempsey expressed his concerns over the nature of the film, the tensions it could inflame and the violence it could cause, and he asked Mr. Jones to consider withdrawing his support for the film," he said.

Jones did listen to the chairman's concerns but was noncommittal, the official said.

Contact Author

Biographies:
Leon E. Panetta
Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

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Exhibit 16

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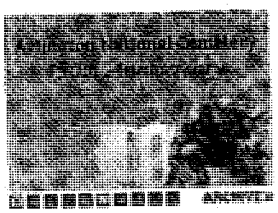

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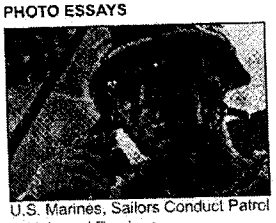

U.S. Marines, Sailors Conduct Patrol in Helmand Province

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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 12, 2012

Remarks by the President on the Deaths of U.S. Embassy Staff in Libya

Rose Garden

10:43 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Every day, all across the world, American diplomats and civilians work tirelessly to advance the interests and values of our nation. Often, they are away from their families. Sometimes, they brave great danger.

Yesterday, four of these extraordinary Americans were killed in an attack on our diplomatic post in Benghazi. Among those killed was our Ambassador, Chris Stevens, as well as Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith. We are still notifying the families of the others who were killed. And today, the American people stand united in holding the families of the four Americans in our thoughts and in our prayers.

The United States condemns in the strongest terms this outrageous and shocking attack. We're working with the government of Libya to secure our diplomats. I've also directed my administration to increase our security at diplomatic posts around the world. And make no mistake, we will work with the Libyan government to bring to justice the killers who attacked our people.

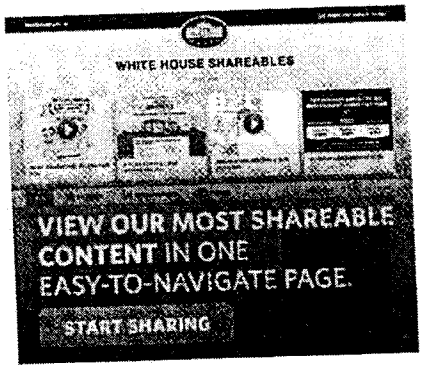
Since our founding, the United States has been a nation that respects all faiths. We reject all efforts to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. But there is absolutely no justification to this type of senseless violence. None. The world must stand together to unequivocally reject these brutal acts.

Already, many Libyans have joined us in doing so, and this attack will not break the bonds between the United States and Libya. Libyan security personnel fought back against the attackers alongside Americans. Libyans helped some of our diplomats find safety, and they carried Ambassador Stevens's body to the hospital, where we tragically learned that he had died.

It's especially tragic that Chris Stevens died in Benghazi because it is a city that he helped to save. At the height of the Libyan revolution, Chris led our diplomatic post in Benghazi. With characteristic skill, courage, and resolve, he built partnerships with Libyan revolutionaries, and helped them as they planned to build a new Libya. When the Qaddafi regime came to an end, Chris was there to serve as our ambassador to the new Libya, and he worked tirelessly to support this young democracy, and I think both Secretary Clinton and I relied deeply on his knowledge of the situation on the ground there. He was a role model to all who worked with him and to the young diplomats who aspire to walk in his footsteps.

Along with his colleagues, Chris died in a country that is still striving to emerge from the recent experience of war. Today, the loss of these four Americans is fresh, but our memories of them linger on. I have no doubt that their legacy will live on through the work that they did far from our shores and in the hearts of those who love them back home.

Of course, yesterday was already a painful day for our nation as we marked the solemn memory of the 9/11 attacks. We mourned with the families who were lost on that day. I visited the graves of troops who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan at the hallowed grounds of Arlington Cemetery, and had the opportunity to say thank you and visit some of our wounded warriors at Walter Reed. And then last night, we learned the news of



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May 29, 2014 11:30 AM EDT
New Report: The All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy as a Path to Sustainable Economic Growth
The United States is producing more oil and natural gas; generating more electricity from renewables such as wind and solar, and consuming less petroleum while holding electricity consumption constant. These developments have had substantial economic and energy security benefits, and they are helping to reduce carbon emissions in the energy sector and thereby tackle the challenge posed by climate change.

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Exhibit 17

this attack in Benghazi.

As Americans, let us never, ever forget that our freedom is only sustained because there are people who are willing to fight for it, to stand up for it, and in some cases, lay down their lives for it. Our country is only as strong as the character of our people and the service of those both civilian and military who represent us around the globe.

No acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation, alter that character, or eclipse the light of the values that we stand for. Today we mourn four more Americans who represent the very best of the United States of America. We will not waver in our commitment to see that justice is done for this terrible act. And make no mistake, justice will be done.

But we also know that the lives these Americans led stand in stark contrast to those of their attackers. These four Americans stood up for freedom and human dignity. They should give every American great pride in the country that they served, and the hope that our flag represents to people around the globe who also yearn to live in freedom and with dignity.

We grieve with their families, but let us carry on their memory, and let us continue their work of seeking a stronger America and a better world for all of our children.

Thank you. May God bless the memory of those we lost and may God bless the United States of America.

END
10:48 A.M. EDT

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Statement on the Attack in Benghazi

Press Statement

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
Washington, DC
September 11, 2012

I condemn in the strongest terms the attack on our mission in Benghazi today. As we work to secure our personnel and facilities, we have confirmed that one of our State Department officers was killed. We are heartbroken by this terrible loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and those who have suffered in this attack.

This evening, I called Libyan President Magariaf to coordinate additional support to protect Americans in Libya. President Magariaf expressed his condemnation and condolences and pledged his government's full cooperation.

Some have sought to justify this vicious behavior as a response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet. The United States deplores any intentional effort to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. Our commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation. But let me be clear: There is never any justification for violent acts of this kind.

In light of the events of today, the United States government is working with partner countries around the world to protect our personnel, our missions, and American citizens worldwide.

PRN: 2012/1421

Exhibit 18

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 18, 2012

Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 9/18/2012

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

11:33 A.M. EDT

MR. CARNEY: Well, hello, ladies and gentlemen. Thanks for being here this morning -- still morning. I appreciate, as ever, you coming to the briefing. I don't have any announcements, so we'll go straight to questions.

Ben.

Q Thanks, Jay. Has the President seen the video that's caused a lot of people to be talking this morning -- the 47 percent video? And if so, what's his reaction to it?

MR. CARNEY: Let me say this. The campaign has put out a statement and I'm sure others from the campaign will be asked about and will address it. So I'll limit what I say in response to questions about it. What I'll say is this: When you're President of the United States you are President of all the people, not just the people who voted for you. You've heard the President say so many times because he deeply believes it that we're in this together, all of us. From the time he began his career in public service, from the time that those of us in this room first heard of him in 2004, his message has been about the fact that what unites us as Americans is far greater than the things that divide us. And that's fundamental to who this President is, and it's fundamental to what guides him as he makes decisions.

When he made the decision against the advice of many to take action to save the auto industry, the President did not ask whether the 1.1 million Americans whose jobs would be saved had voted for him or against him. When he pressed for 18 small business tax cuts he didn't ask if small businessmen and women were Democrat or Republican. When he fought to pass health care reform he didn't wonder whether the 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions who would be helped by this reform, who would be given security through the reform, were likely to be with him or against him in 2012. That's just not how he thinks.

And I think the way you have to approach the job is with a keen understanding that you're out there fighting for every American. And this President's agenda has always been about building the middle class, strengthening the middle class, bringing people up into the middle class. And that's what it will be going forward.

Q Has the President actually watched the video?

MR. CARNEY: I don't -- haven't asked him.

Q One other follow on this. One of the comments from Governor Romney in the fundraiser was that 47 percent who support President Obama believe they are victims. Putting aside just the campaign politics if you need to, does the White House think that that kind of statement has policy implications that would affect how Governor Romney would run the country?

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, setting aside what Governor Romney thinks, I can tell you that the President certainly doesn't think that men and women on Social Security are irresponsible or victims; that students are irresponsible or victims. He certainly doesn't think that middle-class families are paying too little in taxes.

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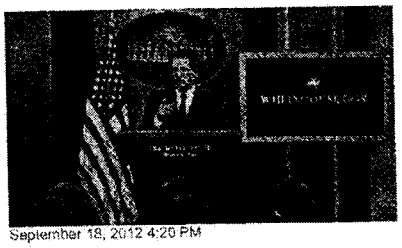

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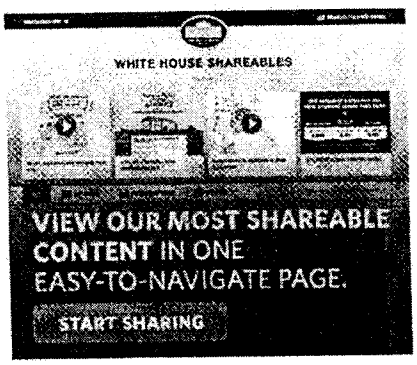

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Exhibit 19

Q I can read the whole thing for you if you want.

MR. CARNEY: I think the President, then candidate, addressed this at the time -- this was four years ago -- and I think the broader point is that his message there and everywhere in 2008, and going back to 2004, and every day since, has been consistent, which is that we're in this together, all of us, and that his interest is in moving the entire country forward in ways that benefit senior citizens on Social Security, students who are getting student loans, combat veterans -- I mean, combat troops as well as veterans -- everybody in this country is I think working towards the same goal, which is advance moving the country forward.

And the vast majority of people, this President believes, are hardworking, responsible, committed to their families and committed to their country. And that's the animating principle behind his politics and his policies.

Q Will the President mention it in his fundraisers tonight, the Romney remarks?

MR. CARNEY: I don't have any previews for you on the President's remarks.

Q I wanted to go back to the conflict between -- the conflicting reports I guess between the administration and Libyan officials over what happened. On Friday, you seemed to cite that the videos were definitely part of it, but I get the sense that you're backing away from that a little bit today. Is there something that you've learned since?

MR. CARNEY: No, no. I think what I am making clear and what Ambassador Rice made clear on Sunday is that reaction to the video was the precipitating factor in protests in violence across the region. And what I'm also saying is that we have -- we made that assessment based on the evidence that we have, and that includes all the evidence that we have at this time.

I am not, unlike some others, going to prejudge the outcome of an investigation and categorically assert one way or the other what the motivations are or what happened exactly until that investigation is complete. And there are a lot suppositions based on the number of weapons and other things about what really happened in Benghazi and I'd rather wait, and the President would rather wait, for that investigation to be completed.

Q So you're not ruling out that --

MR. CARNEY: Of course not. I'm not ruling out -- if more information comes to light, that will obviously be a part of the investigation and we'll make it available when appropriate. But at this time, as Ambassador Rice said and as I said, our understanding and our belief based on the information we have is it was the video that caused the unrest in Cairo, and the video and the unrest in Cairo that helped -- that precipitated some of the unrest in Benghazi and elsewhere. What other factors were involved is a matter of investigation.

Q Can you talk a little bit about is this going to prompt any --

MR. CARNEY: I'd refer you to the FBI for that. I don't keep timelines, FBI timelines at the ready.

Q You mentioned aid with Egypt and working with the Hill. Is this going to prompt any revisions or any review, I guess, of the President's policies toward the Arab Spring?

MR. CARNEY: Look, the President's policy towards the Arab Spring is that we support the democratic aspirations of the people of the region. And the upheavals that you've seen in the region over the past several years have been in reaction to oppressive governments that do not respect the basic rights of their citizens. In cases like in Tunisia and Libya and elsewhere, democratic transitions are underway. They are in early stages, and there is a lot of volatility in these countries -- Egypt as well, of course.

And our policy is geared towards supporting that transition in a way that enhances the prospects of democracy in the region and enhances the prospects that the countries in the region will continue to be -- either will continue to be or will grow to be supportive of the United States and our interests in the region and around the world. And that policy hasn't changed.

Q Jay, there's going to be a lot of attention on the Supreme Court next week because they'll consider taking up several pending marriage cases related to both the Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8. The Justice Department has already made its views known on the DOMA cases, but given the President's previously supported -- previously stated opposition to Prop 8 and support for marriage equality, does the administration want the Supreme Court to take up the Prop 8 case, making some national ruling on same-sex marriage? Or as claimants in the case have requested, would you prefer that the Court allow the lower court ruling to stand and

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DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

Victoria Nuland
Spokesperson
Daily Press Briefing
Washington, DC
September 17, 2012

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INDEX FOR TODAY'S BRIEFING

DEPARTMENT
- Authorization of Ordered Departures in Tunis, Khartoum / Lebanon Travel Warning
- Embassy Cairo / Consul General Alexandria / Demonstrations

PAKISTAN
- Situation Report / U.S. Monitoring Situation

LIBYA
- Benghazi Attack / Ambassador Rice's Comments
- Ongoing FBI Investigation / Libyan Investigation

EGYPT/ REGIONS
- Readout of Contacts with Egyptians / U.S. Support
- Host Country Security / U.S. Has Ongoing Conversations with Hosts Countries

LIBYA
- Reports of an Alleged Video of Benghazi Incident
- U.S. Will Continue to Assess Incident in Benghazi / Secretary Clinton

EGYPT
- Security / Military Force

SUDAN
- Khartoum / Safety, Security / U.S. Working with Sudanese

REGION
- Congress / Programmatic Support

SYRIA/IRAN
- Envoy Brahimi / US Concern / Need a Unified Plan of the Opposition

DEPARTMENT
- Acts of Violence Worldwide / U.S. Standing with Democratically Elected Governments
- Update on Secretary Clinton's Calls / Meetings

BURMA
- Daw Suu Kyi's Visit / Amnesty of Prisoners

CHINA/JAPAN
- Secretary Panetta / US Will Continue to Counsel Japanese and Chinese Leaders

IRAN
- P-5+1 / Lady Ashton / Non-Starter on Table

PAKISTAN

Exhibit 20

MS. NULAND: Yeah. Usually. Usually. Yeah.

Please.

QUESTION: Toria, in Friday's briefing, Friday evening, you essentially stated that all questions concerning any aspect of the Benghazi attack – the circumstances surrounding it, the outcome of it, et cetera – would henceforth be directed by you to the FBI since it's their investigation.

And yet, on five Sunday shows yesterday, Ambassador Rice, who works for the same agency as you, was giving the latest U.S. assessment of how this event unfolded, specifically by saying we don't believe it was premeditated or preplanned, and by saying that those with heavy arms and so forth showed up, in essence, as she put it, to hijack an ongoing demonstration.

So my first question for you is: Given that Ambassador Rice is out there talking publicly about it and not referring Bob Schieffer and Chris Wallace and the rest to the FBI, may we consider that we can again begin asking you questions at this podium about the circumstances of the attack? If it's fair for the Ambassador to discuss it, it should be fair in this room, correct?

MS. NULAND: Well, let me start by reminding you that Ambassador Rice outranks me, as does my own boss, so she is often at liberty to say more than I am. And I guess that's going to continue to be the case.

What I will say, though, is that Ambassador Rice, in her comments on every network over the weekend, was very clear, very precise, about what our initial assessment of what happened is. And this was not just her assessment. It was also an assessment that you've heard in comments coming from the intelligence community, in comments coming from the White House. I don't have anything to give you beyond that.

She also made clear, as I had on Friday, that there is an ongoing FBI investigation. So frankly, I'm not sure that it's useful to go beyond that. I'm not capable of going beyond that, and we'll have to just see what the FBI investigation brings us.

QUESTION: You would acknowledge, however, that the account of the events, the preliminary account of the events that Ambassador Rice offered, diverges starkly from the account offered by the Libyan President, correct?

MS. NULAND: Well, we've heard a number of different things from Libya. I would simply say that what – the comments that Ambassador Rice made accurately reflect our government's initial assessment.

QUESTION: And one last question, if I might, because Ambassador Rice spoke to this. She suggested that there had been an ongoing demonstration outside the Consulate or in the proximity of the Consulate in Benghazi that was, in essence, hijacked by more militant elements who came armed to the affair. I just want to nail this down with you. You are – you stand by this notion that there was, in fact, an ongoing demonstration?

MS. NULAND: I'd simply say that I don't have any information beyond what Ambassador Rice shared with you and that her assessment does reflect our initial assessment as a government.

Please.

QUESTION: The Libyan Interior Minister said today that he dismissed two security officers in relation to the attack on the Consulate in Benghazi. Is this something that you are expecting? Do you think this is a step in the right direction? And do you think that the Libyans should have taken more fully a responsibility for protecting the Embassy in Benghazi? And how close are you in terms of cooperation with the investigation? I mean, what level, I mean?

MS. NULAND: Well, we talked about this a little bit last week, and I'm going to stand by what I said, which is obviously the Libyans are leading an investigation. We have our own FBI investigation. We also have close FBI and Libyan cooperation as we both pursue these. But I'm not going to get into the back and forth of who's arrested, what we think, what we know about any of this. And the investigation is obviously going to lead us to the appropriate conclusions about precisely what happened and how it happened.

QUESTION: Can you confirm at least that there's two security officers have been dismissed because of that?

MS. NULAND: I'm going to refer you to the Libyans, because this appears to be – you're – appear to be giving me backaction that they may have taken.

QUESTION: Do you have confidence in the Libyans' ability to do a prompt and thorough investigation?

MS. NULAND: I would say that we are already working well with the Libyans, as we have throughout this very difficult period. And – but with regard to the precise aspects of how we're cooperating on the investigation, I'm going to send you to the investigating agency.

QUESTION: You've had – there's been other investigations that the Libyans were supposed to have done that they've struggled, I guess, to finish, one being the circumstances of Qadhafi's death, I think, in October. And I think it's 11 months and you guys have no information, if that's correct.

MS. NULAND: I frankly don't know what the status of the Libyan investigation on that is. But with regard to --

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By CBSNEWS / CBS NEWS / September 16, 2012, 2:39 PM

"Face the Nation" transcripts, September 16, 2012: Libyan Pres. Magariaf, Amb. Rice and Sen. McCain

Egyptian protesters tear down the US flag at the US embassy in Cairo on September 11, 2012 during a demonstration against a film deemed offensive to Islam. Thousands of angry Egyptian demonstrators protested against the film made by an Israeli-American who describes Islam as a "cancer" as an armed mob attacked the US mission in Benghazi killing an official. AFP PHOTO/STR (Photo credit should read -/AFP/GettyImages)

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(CBS News) Below is a transcript of "Face the Nation" on September 16, 2012, hosted by CBS News' Bob Schieffer. Guests include: Libyan President Mohamed Magariaf, U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., and a roundtable of Israeli Ambassador Martin Indyk, New York Times Columnist Tom Friedman, and Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Today on FACE THE NATION on the anniversary of 9/11, an attack in Libya takes the life of our ambassador there and three other Americans. And a new attack in Afghanistan today leaves four U.S. service members dead.

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Exhibit 21

As the anti-American protests over a U.S.-made anti-Muslim film spread across the Arab world from Africa to Afghanistan to Australia. Here at home, big questions remain about the safety of U.S. personnel overseas. And how all this will affect Campaign 2012. We will cover it all from all sides with the President of Libya's General National Congress Mohamed Yousef Magariaf; U.N. ambassador Susan Rice; and Republican Senator John McCain.

For analyses, we'll look to former U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk; the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, Richard Haass; and New York Times columnist Tom Friedman.

Plus, we'll talk to the chief Washington correspondent of The Times, David Sanger; TIME magazine deputy international editor Bobby Ghosh; and CBS News political director, John Dickerson.

This is FACE THE NATION.

ANNOUNCER: From CBS News in Washington, FACE THE NATION with Bob Schieffer.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Good morning again and here is the latest news from overnight. Four American military people have been killed in an attack in Southern Afghanistan. This happened when at least one Afghan police officer opened fire on them at a checkpoint. The State Department has ordered all nonessential U.S. embassy personnel to leave Tunisia and Sudan, and protests against Americans continue in at least twenty countries.

But we're going to start this morning with Libya and the latest on Tuesday's attack. We spoke a little earlier this morning with the president of Libya's National Congress, Mohamed Magariaf. How many people have now been arrested, Mister President?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF (President, Libya's General National Congress): Oh, few scores, I think the number reached about fifty.

BOB SCHIEFFER: About fifty people have been arrested. And who are these people?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF (voice overlapping): Yeah.

BOB SCHIEFFER: You have said that they were connected to al Qaeda. Are they all foreigners?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: Yes, few of them are.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And who are the others?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: The others are affiliates and maybe sympathizers.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Where do you think the foreigners are from, Mister President?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: They entered Libya from different directions and some of them definitely from Mali and Algeria.

BOB SCHIEFFER: You have said that this does not-- this attack did not reflect anti-American feelings by the vast majority of people in your country. Tell us about that.

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MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: Yes, these ugly deeds, criminal deeds against direct-- were directed against them, Late Ambassador Chris Stevens and his colleagues do not resemble any way, in any sense, the aspirations, the feelings of Libyans towards the United States and its citizens.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Was this a long-planned attack, as far as you know? Or what-- what do you know about that?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: The way these perpetrators acted and moved, I think we-- and they're choosing the specific date for this so-called demonstration, I think we have no-- this leaves us with no doubt that this has preplanned, determined-- predetermined.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And you believe that this was the work of al Qaeda and you believe that it was led by foreigners. Is that-- is that what you are telling us?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: It was planned-- definitely, it was planned by foreigners, by people who-- who entered the country a few months ago, and they were planning this criminal act since their-- since their arrival.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Mister President, is it safe for Americans there now?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: The security situation is-- is difficult, not only for Americans, even for Libyans themselves. We don't know what-- what are the real intentions of these perpetrators. How they will react? So-- but there is no specific particular concern for danger for Americans or any other foreigners. But situation is not easy--

BOB SCHIEFFER: Mister President.

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: --to keep stability. Yes.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Will it be safe for the FBI investigators from the United States to come in, are you advising them to stay away for a while?

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: Maybe it is better for them to say for a-- for a little while? For a little while, but until we-- we-- we-- we do what we-- we have to do ourselves. But, again, we'll be in need for-- for their presence to help in further investigation. And, I mean any hasty action will-- I think is not welcomed.

BOB SCHIEFFER: I want to thank you very much for joining us this morning. Thank you, Sir.

MOHAMED YOUSEF EL-MAGARIAF: Thank you so much.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And joining us now, Susan Rice, the U.N. ambassador, our U.N. ambassador. Madam Ambassador, he says this is something that has been in the planning stages for months. I understand you have been saying that you think it was spontaneous? Are we not on the same page here?

SUSAN RICE (Ambassador to the United Nations): Bob, let me tell you what we understand to be the assessment at present. First of all, very importantly, as you discussed with the President, there is an investigation that the United States government will launch led by the FBI, that has begun and--

BOB SCHIEFFER (overlapping): But they are not there.

SUSAN RICE: They are not on the ground yet, but they have already begun looking at all sorts of evidence of-- of various sorts already available to them and

to us. And they will get on the ground and continue the investigation. So we'll want to see the results of that investigation to draw any definitive conclusions. But based on the best information we have to date, what our assessment is as of the present is in fact what began spontaneously in Benghazi as a reaction to what had transpired some hours earlier in Cairo where, of course, as you know, there was a violent protest outside of our embassy--

1/7

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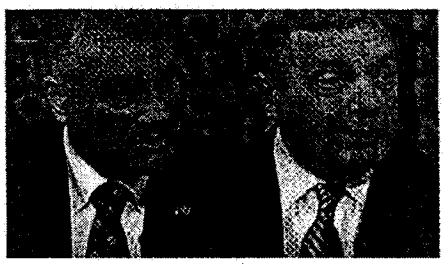

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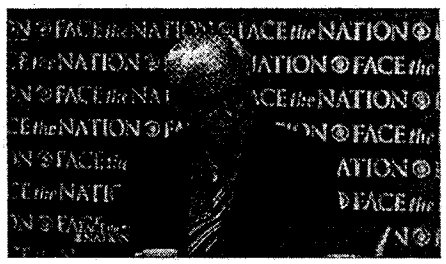

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BENGHAZI, Libya — A Libyan security guard who said he was at the U.S. consulate here when it was attacked Tuesday night has provided new evidence that the assault on the compound that left four Americans dead, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya, was a planned attack by armed Islamists and not the outgrowth of a protest over an online video that mocks Islam and its founder, the Prophet Muhammad.

The guard, interviewed Thursday in the hospital where he is being treated for five shrapnel wounds in one leg and two bullet wounds in the other, said that the consulate area was quiet – "there wasn't a single ant outside," he said – until about 9:35 p.m., when as many as 125 armed men descended on the compound from all directions.

The men lobbed grenades into the compound, wounding the guard and knocking him to the ground, then stormed through the facility's main gate, shouting "God is great" and moving to one of the many villas that make up the consulate compound. He said there had been no warning that an attack was imminent.

"Wouldn't you expect if there were protesters outside that the Americans would leave?" the guard said.

The guard, located by searching hospitals for people injured Tuesday night, said he was 27 years old but declined to give his name. He asked that the hospital where he is being treated not be identified for fear that militants would track him down and kill him. He said he was able to escape by telling one of the attackers that he was only a gardener at the compound. The attacker took him to the hospital, the guard said.

Libyan authorities told reporters Thursday that they had made four arrests in connection with the consulate assault, but they cautioned that leaders of the group blamed for the attack, an Islamist organization known as Ansar al Shariah, denied that they had given the order to attack. But the guard's tale suggested that whoever ordered the assault had been able to call upon a large number of people to carry out what appeared to be an organized attack.

Wanis al Sharif, the deputy interior minister responsible for Libya's eastern region, which includes Benghazi, told a group of local reporters that in addition to the four people under arrest, authorities were monitoring others for possible involvement in the attack.

"There is a group under our control, and there is another we are monitoring," Sharif said.

Exhibit 22

Sharif said that Ansar al Shariah's leaders had suggested that those carrying the group's flag during the assault were rogue members acting on their own.

"They called me and told me you have wronged us," Sharif said. "They told me that there may be individual acts."

Ansar al Shariah – Partisans of Islamic law – which is based in Benghazi, is one of the largest Islamic extremist groups now operating in Libya, according to an analysis published Wednesday by Aaron Zelin of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The shadowy organization is led by Muhammad Zahawi and maintains "online connections" to a similarly named group in Tunisia. A unit, or katiba, based in Derna, an eastern town from which extremists made their way to fight U.S. forces in Iraq, is commanded by a former Guantanamo prison detainee, Abu Sufayan bin Qumu, according to Zelin.

Where Sharif's findings would fit in the U.S. investigation into the death of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and the other Americans remained unclear. But the guard's tale suggests that there were many more than four people involved in the attack.

The attack itself, the guard said, was immediate and bold, initiated by a group of men who approached the compound and lobbed grenades over the wall. Just behind them were scores of men, shooting wildly and yelling "God is great."

The guard, who said he'd been hired seven months ago by a British company to protect the compound, said the first explosion knocked him to the ground, and he was unable to fire his weapon. Four other contracted guards and three members of Libya's 17th of February Brigade, a group formed during the first days of the anti-Gadhafi uprising and now considered part of Libya's military, were protecting the outside perimeter of the compound.

After storming through the gate, the guard said, the men rushed into one of the compound's buildings, meeting no resistance. The guard did not say whether that was the building where the ambassador was.

Thirty minutes later, the guard said, he realized he was about to lose consciousness and asked one of the attackers for help, saying he was merely a gardener at the compound. The man agreed to drive him to the hospital. As they were leaving, the guard said he saw the attackers enter a second villa on the compound.

Stevens and consulate computer expert Sean Smith are believed to have been overcome by smoke in the main consulate building. Two other State Department employees were shot and killed by the invaders at another building on the compound where Americans had sought refuge. The two men, both former Navy SEALs who were working as security contractors, were identified by family members as Glen A. Doherty, 42, a native of Winchester, Mass., and Tyrone Woods, 41, of Imperial Beach, Calif. At least three other embassy employees were wounded.

A Libyan emergency room doctor who treated Stevens said Libyan security guards brought him to the hospital at 1 a.m., his lips black and his body reeking of smoke.

He was officially pronounced dead at 1:45 a.m. from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning, but the doctor who tried to revive him, Ziad Bouzaid, 31, said Stevens was dead on arrival. Bouzaid said the body bore no other signs of injury.

The guard's tale is consistent with a version offered Wednesday by the man who had leased the compound to the United States.

Standing outside the fire-gutted compound, Mohammad al Bishari said the attack began with assailants carrying assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and the black flag of Ansar al Shariah moving from two directions against the compound.

The FBI has launched its own investigation into what took place, and two American destroyers, the USS Laboon and the USS McFaul, were expected to take up positions by early next off the coast near Benghazi in what many here interpreted as preparations for a possible retaliatory attack. On Wednesday, President Barack Obama promised justice in the case.

Meanwhile, fallout continued Thursday from anger over an online video that Muslims said denigrated their religion.

In Sanaa, Yemen, demonstrators protesting the video tried to storm the U.S. Embassy, making it past an initial security line but failing to make it to any of the main embassy compound buildings. Demonstrators burned tires and spray-painted "Death of America" on the wall surrounding the compound before they were repulsed by Yemeni security forces firing tear gas and warning shots.

No embassy staff was injured, but four demonstrators were killed and as many as 30 others injured.

Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi quickly condemned the attack and vowed to punish those responsible for it.

Unrest continued as well Thursday in Cairo, where on Tuesday protesters breached the embassy compound's wall and tore down and burned the American flag. Protests continued Thursday, even though Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, speaking publicly on the attacks for the first time, condemned them.

No one has claimed responsibility for the consulate assault, something that perhaps is unsurprising in this part of Libya, where Stevens was a popular ambassador representing a nation many here believed saved Benghazi from a massacre during the rebellion against toppled Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. Gadhafi's tanks were on the edge of the city, preparing to overrun it, when NATO jets began their bombing campaign March 19, 2011.

Indeed, throughout the day Thursday, Libyans nationwide held rallies in support of the ambassador, carrying signs in Arabic and at times broken English offering their support.

"Sorry People of America, this not the Pehavior our Islam and Profit," one read.

A young man in Benghazi carried a sign that read: "Chris Stevens was a friend to all Libyan people"

Zway reported from Benghazi, Libya, and Youssef from Cairo. McClatchy special correspondents Adam Baron from Sanaa, Yemen, and Mel Frykberg from Cairo contributed.

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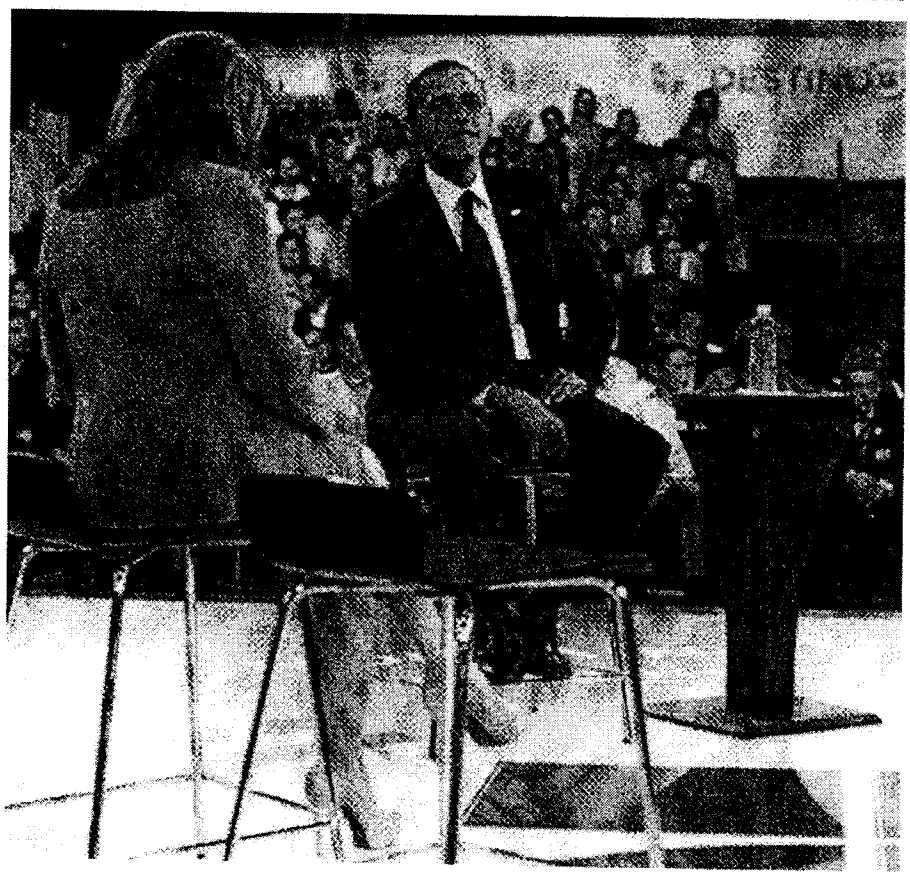
The Big Story

Obama: Extremists used video as 'excuse' to attack

By KEN THOMAS
— Sep. 20, 2012 8:08 PM EDT

Home » United States government » Obama: Extremists used video as 'excuse' to attack



President Barack Obama participates in a town hall hosted by Univision and Univision news anchor Maria Elena Salinas, left, at the University of Miami, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012, in Coral Gables, Fla. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Exhibit 24

MIAMI (AP) — President Barack Obama said Thursday that extremists used an anti-Islam video as an excuse to assault U.S. interests overseas, including an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans.

The president's comments came as Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton faced questions from members of the House and Senate about the Sept. 11 attack on the consulate in Benghazi in a series of closed-door classified briefings on Capitol Hill.

Republicans have accused the Obama administration of misreading the assault as the outgrowth of widespread demonstrations in the Middle East over the video. They insisted it was a terrorist attack, a term White House spokesman Jay Carney used on Thursday. Obama did not use the phrase.

"What we do know is that the natural protests that arose because of the outrage over the video were used as an excuse by extremists to see if they can also directly harm U.S. interests," the president said at a candidate forum on the Spanish-language network Univision.

Asked if that meant al-Qaida, Obama said, "We don't know yet."

"We will focus narrowly and forcefully on groups like al-Qaida, the ones that carried out the 9/11 attacks. Those forces have not gone away," the president said.

Clinton also announced that, in line with federal law, she will appoint an independent panel to look at circumstances of the attack in Benghazi that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and there other employees. The so-called Accountability Review Board will be chaired by retired diplomat Thomas Pickering, she said.

Democrats and Republicans emerging from the briefings provided some details about what the administration is still piecing together — who was responsible, how much of it was planned and what was the security.

Joining Clinton at the back-to-back briefings were Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter.

Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said it was "clearly a terrorist attack," but mortars weren't used until six, seven hours into the fight.

"So it seemed like an armed gang that seized an opportunity," Smith said.

Both Smith and Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersburger of Maryland, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said there was no evidence to suggest that the local Libyans at the consulate colluded with the attackers.

Published reports suggested that Sufyan bin Qumu, a former detainee at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who was transferred to Libya in 2007, was involved. Lawmakers asked about Qumu at the briefing.

"But not directly related to the attack, but as someone who's in that region," Smith said. "They're attempting to establish whether or not he was connected to the people who made the attack. He's certainly a person of interest."

Investigators have found no evidence or intelligence to suggest Qumu was at the conflict, leading it or organizing it, according to a U.S. official, speaking anonymously because he was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly.

Senate Republicans expressed frustration with the information provided at the sessions and disputed the administration's assessment.

"There's increasing amount of evidence that this was a coordinated attack by terrorists," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. "The movie wasn't the catalyst for this, the catalyst was radical Islamic extremists that wanted to attack the United States and saw an opportunity to do it in Benghazi."

One of the harshest critics of the administration, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, scoffed at the administration's argument that the video set off the assault.

"I'm stunned that they thought this was some kind of spontaneous demonstration," McCain told reporters.

In testimony Wednesday, Matthew Olsen, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, called the incident a "terrorist attack."

Carney echoed that point on Thursday.

"It is, I think, self-evident that what happened in Benghazi was a terrorist attack. Our embassy was attacked violently, and the result was four deaths of American officials," he said.

—

Associated Press writers Kimberly Dozier and Donna Cassata in Washington contributed to this report.

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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2012

Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 9/19/12

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

11:32 A.M. EDT

MR. CARNEY: Hello, everyone. Good afternoon -- or good morning. Thanks for being here. Before I get started, as some of you have seen reported, I can tell you that later this afternoon the President will meet with Aung San Suu Kyi at the White House. The President looks forward to her visit as it provides another opportunity to reaffirm our longstanding support for her struggle, and the struggle of many others towards democratic, just, and transparent governance in Burma.

This is her first trip to the United States in more than 20 years. The President very much looks forward to that visit. That's all I have at the top.

Q What time?

MR. CARNEY: Late afternoon around 5:00 p.m.

Q Will there be a photo spray?

MR. CARNEY: We're still -- press coverage TBD, but we're working on it.

Jim.

Q Thanks, Jay. Two foreign policy issues. Reports that Iran is using Iraqi airspace to deliver weapons to Syria, the issue came up today in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. What steps is the President prepared to take to prevent Iraq from allowing Iran into its airspace? Any conditions on financial aid or anything like that?

MR. CARNEY: Well, let me just say broadly that we have made clear to countries around the world that we all need to work together to prevent Assad from acquiring weapons that he can use to continue to perpetrate violence against his own people, and that's a message that we carry in conversations with leaders everywhere.

I don't have anything specific for you with regards to Iraq, and I'm not aware of the meeting on the Hill that you referenced. But that is something we're concerned about generally. We've worked very hard with our international partners to cut off access to weapons and financing for Assad, and we continue to do that.

Q On China, Secretary Panetta returned from his trip there, and we quoted that Chinese leaders are expressing concern over our U.S. military shift to the Pacific. Does the White House have any concerns that that, together with the attention that China has been getting in the presidential campaign, is increasing any tensions with the Chinese?

MR. CARNEY: What I said yesterday holds true today, which is that we have a very complex, broad relationship with China that is extremely important. And when we meet with the Chinese at the level of the President and below, we engage with them on all of the issues that are part of our relationship, and that includes areas of disagreement as well as areas of cooperation and agreement. We obviously have an important trade relationship and economic relationship, as well as military-to-military relationship.

We are, as the President made clear on his trip to Asia last fall, a Pacific power. We have a presence there that's

WATCH THE VIDEO

September 19, 2012 2:28 PM
Press Briefing

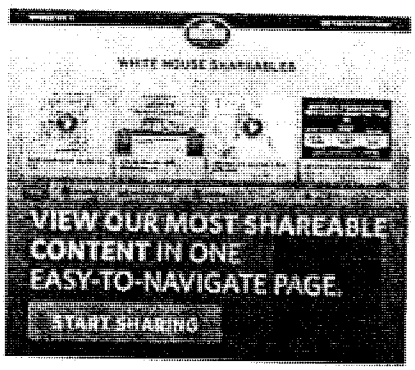

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Exhibit 25

Q Thank you, Jay. Aside from the FBI investigation, doesn't the White House have its own intelligence that would allow you to say with some degree of certainty that the attack in Benghazi was either a coordinated attack or a spontaneous reaction to the movie?

MR. CARNEY: The White House doesn't have its own intelligence, Dan. The White House has --

Q The White House doesn't have its own intelligence on this? I mean --

MR. CARNEY: Outside of the intelligence community of the United States government?

Q No, outside of the FBI investigation? You don't have --

MR. CARNEY: Are you suggesting that we have a clandestine intelligence operation here in the White House?

Q No. You are able to find out a lot of information on your own, independently. And what I'm saying, in addition to what the FBI is doing, does the White House not have information that it has gathered that will allow --

MR. CARNEY: I think the FBI is leading an investigation that will encompass all of the information available to the White House and to the intelligence community and to the broader diplomatic community. What I can tell you is that, as I said last week, as our Ambassador to the United Nations said on Sunday and as I said the other day, based on what we know now and knew at the time, we have no evidence of a preplanned or premeditated attack. This, however, remains under investigation, and I made that clear last week, and Ambassador Rice made that clear on Sunday. And if more facts come to light that change our assessment of what transpired in Benghazi and why and how, we will welcome those facts and make you aware of them.

But again, based on the information that we had at the time and have to this day, we do not have evidence that it was premeditated. It is a simple fact that there are, in post-revolution, post-war Libya, armed groups, there are bad actors hostile to the government, hostile to the West, hostile to the United States. And as has been the case in other countries in the region, it is certainly conceivable that these groups take advantage of and exploit situations that develop, when they develop, to protest against or attack either Westerners, Americans, Western sites or American sites.

And again, this is something that's under investigation. We have provided you our assessment based on the information we've had as it's become available. As more information becomes available, we will make clear what the investigation has revealed.

Q And another question on Afghanistan. Given some of the developments that we've seen there recently, does the President still believe that Afghan forces are capable of handling their own security and will be able to do so in time for the 2014 deadline?

MR. CARNEY: The President believes that after a decade of war, we can and should pursue a strategy that transitions security authority over to Afghan forces and allows us to end the war in Afghanistan and bring home our men and women in uniform. That process is underway.

We have gotten to this point because the President, having inherited a policy in Afghanistan that was widely viewed as adrift, without a focused mission, under-resourced, he very deliberately, working with his national security team, honed in on what the proper objectives should be in Afghanistan; made clear that our number-one objective in that region was to disrupt, dismantle, and ultimately defeat al Qaeda, and to ensure, in support of that goal, that Afghanistan could not become a safe haven again for al Qaeda or other extremists who have as their objective attacking the United States or U.S. allies.

And the execution of that strategy continues. It led initially to a surge in U.S. forces, which halted the Taliban's momentum; which allowed us to take the fight to al Qaeda in the region in a way that we had not been able to before; that led to the decimation of al Qaeda's leadership, including the elimination of Osama bin Laden; and has now allowed us to draw down the surge forces and to continue the transition to Afghan security forces' responsibility for security of that country.

That process continues, as I said the other day. We are very concerned about the green-on-blue attacks that have been taking place in Afghanistan, the increase in those attacks. And our commanders are taking measures to ensure that there is more security for our troops in Afghanistan. But the process of partnering with and training Afghan security forces continues, and the process of transitioning to Afghan security lead continues. And the President has made clear that the pace -- that the drawdown of U.S. forces will continue. The pace of that will depend on evaluations by and assessments by commanders on the ground. But it will continue, and he remains committed to ending the war in Afghanistan in keeping with the NATO objectives by 2014.

From: [redacted]@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 4:05 PM
To: [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@nss.eop.gov; [redacted]@mail.mil; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@dni.gov; [redacted]@[redacted].pentagon.mil); [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@ic.fbi.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov
CC: [redacted].@State.gov; [redacted]@nss.eop.gov
Subject: U.S. Diplomatic Mission in Benghazi Under Attack (SBU)

(SBU) The Regional Security Officer reports the diplomatic mission is under attack. Embassy Tripoli reports approximately 20 armed people fired shots; explosions have been heard as well. Ambassador Stevens, who is currently in Benghazi, and four COM personnel are in the compound safe haven. The 17th of February militia is providing security support.

The Operations Center will provide updates as available.

Exhibit 26

From: [redacted]@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 6:07 PM
To: [redacted]; SES_DutyDeputies; S_SpecialAssistants; D(B); D(N); P; Ops_Targeted_Alerts_R_DL; PA FO Group; Operations Center; Ops_Targeted_Alerts_S_ES-O_DL; SES-Line_Only; Ops_Targeted_Alerts_DS_DL; [redacted]@nss.eop.gov; [redacted]@mail.mil; Benghazi Update; Ops_Targeted_Alerts_CA_DL; C; Ops_Targeted_Alerts_CSO_DL; CT_FrontOffice; D(B)/MET; MDGHR Front Office; DRL-FO-DL; [redacted]@ic.fbi.gov; H_SeniorStaff; Ops_Targeted_Alerts_INL_DL; INR-STAFFER; INR-Watch; Legal-Ops-Alert-DL; M_Staff; Ops_Targeted_Alerts_NEA_DL; OBO-Special Assistants-DL; PM-Alerts-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; A Front Office
Cc: Ops_Targeted_Alerts_DS_DL; [redacted]@nss.eop.gov
Subject: Update 2: Ansar al-Sharia Claims Responsibility for Benghazi Attack (SBU)

Categories: Yellow Category

(SBU) Embassy Tripoli reports the group claimed responsibility on Facebook and Twitter and has called for an attack on Embassy Tripoli.

From: [redacted]@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 4:54 PM
To: [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@nss.eop.gov; [redacted]@mail.mil; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@dni.gov; [redacted]@[redacted].pentagon.mil); [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@ic.fbi.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@state.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@State.gov
CC: [redacted]@State.gov; [redacted]@nss.eop.gov
Subject: Update 1: U.S. Diplomatic Mission in Benghazi (SBU)

(SBU) Embassy Tripoli reports the firing at the U.S. Diplomatic Mission in Benghazi has stopped and the compound has been cleared. A response team is on site attempting to locate COM personnel.

C05391027 U.S. Department of State - Doc# C05391027 - Produced to HOGR - August 2013

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 12:46 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; [redacted]; Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted] Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted]; NEA-LIBYADESK; NEA-DAS-DL; [redacted] Gordon, Philip H; [redacted], [redacted] Jones, Beth E
Subject: RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
SMARTCategory: Working

From AA/S Jones:

I spoke to Libyan Ambassador Aujali at about 9:45am and told him that we would like him to help ensure that our wounded in the hospital in Tripoli are not disturbed by the investigation that Libyan officials are apparently beginning to conduct. I said we appreciate the Libyan desire to conduct an investigation, but I vehemently stressed the importance of allowing our wounded to recover in peace without the slightest disturbance. I thanked him for the excellent care that [redacted] told us the wounded are receiving from Libyan doctors.

I also emphasized the importance of Libyan leaders continuing to make strong statements. Aujali noted that his President and Prime Minister had apologized publicly to the American people and the families of the victims. When he said his government suspected that former Qaddafi regime elements carried out the attacks, I told him that the group that conducted the attacks – Ansar Al Sharia – is affiliated with Islamic extremists.

Aujali said the people of Libya are shocked by the attacks and deeply saddened by the loss of Chris Stevens: "He is the man of Libya." He said he fervently hopes that this attack will not affect the relations between our two countries. The Libyans sincerely appreciate what the United States has done and is doing in Libya.

I informed him that it was too dangerous for our personnel to remain in Benghazi and let him know that we have pulled everyone out.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Jones, Beth E
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 9:51 AM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; [redacted] Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted] Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted]; NEA-LIBYADESK; NEA-DAS-DL; [redacted] Gordon, Philip H; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Good news: [redacted] just called to report that our wounded in the hospital in Tripoli are doing much better. Libyan doctors have apparently served them very well so far.

U.S. Department of State - Doc# C05391027 - Produced to HOGR - August 2013

Exhibit 27

[redacted] also said the Libyan PM, Prosecutor General and Attorney General arrived at the hospital this morning (DC time). According to [redacted] source in the hospital – the Embassy nurse – the Libyan officials plan to begin carrying out an investigation about the attack in Benghazi last night. [redacted] said he is headed to the hospital immediately to shield the wounded from any attempts to interview them.

In the meantime, those selected for evacuation are gathering for the ride to the airport

From: Jones, Beth E
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 6:58 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; [redacted] Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: [redacted] @state.gov); NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted] Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted] Dibble, Elizabeth L; [redacted] NEA-LIBYADESK; NEA-DAS-DL; [redacted] Gordon, Philip H; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

[redacted] just provided the following update about the three Embassy buildings in Tripoli:

- All 33 COM (State) personnel in Tripoli are accounted for and currently they are all at the Residential Compound.
- The [redacted] has approximately 33 people as well, and they are all there.
- No one is currently at the Embassy itself.

I passed on U/S Kennedy's recommendation that the personnel all move together to one compound in Tripoli; [redacted] said that suggestion made good sense and that he would discuss with the COS as to which compound is the most secure.

Other points:

- [redacted] said he has closed the Embassy tomorrow, and no one will travel from the residential compound into town except, as necessary, for him, the RSO and the DATT.
- [redacted] and the RSO held a Town Hall meeting in the last half hour to reassure the Embassy staff; they remain calm and are responding well.
- [redacted] has requested police protection for the Residential Compound and the [redacted] at the moment, the police are protecting the Embassy. He is checking now on what the extra protection situation is with the Residential Compound and the [redacted] [redacted] is in touch with the militias with which it works to ensure extra protection.

In Benghazi:

- [redacted] is working with the COS to make sure he is aware of reports that another mob has gathered in Benghazi headed for the [redacted] They will ensure extra protection there, too.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:55 PM
To: [redacted] Nuland, Victoria J; [redacted] Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: [redacted] NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted] Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted] Dibble, Elizabeth L; [redacted] NEA-LIBYADESK; NEA-DAS-DL; [redacted] Gordon, Philip H; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

I just spoke again to [redacted] who himself spoke again to the offices of the Libyan President and Prime Minister, asking them to provide firefighting equipment to the Benghazi compound. He said the PD shop at Embassy Tripoli has found postings on Facebook indicating that the "Tripoli Council" plans to carry out an attack on Embassy Tripoli. He said he was promised increased police protection but it had not yet materialized.

[redacted] said his team reports that the extremist group Ansar Al Sharia has taken credit for the attack in Benghazi. He heard reports that the February 17 Brigade is currently engaged in a running battle with Ansar Al Sharia; he asked the offices of the President and PM to pursue Ansar al Sharia.

On working to locate Ambassador Stevens, the RSO team and militia are still on compound, which is 50 acres – [redacted] expressed the hope that Ambassador Stevens is in hiding somewhere on the compound. The PO's residence is still on fire.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:32 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; [redacted] Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F; Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: [redacted] NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted] Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted] Dibble, Elizabeth L; [redacted] NEA-LIBYADESK; NEA-DAS-DL; [redacted]; Gordon, Philip H; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

The fighting has stopped, DCM [redacted] just confirmed to me. He also confirmed one fatality: [redacted] – a TDY'er from The Hague – has died. His body has been recovered. The five ARSOs are accounted for, but they're still trying to find the Ambassador. The Principal Officer's residence is still on fire with toxic smoke.

I have spoken to A/S Gordon and Liz Dibble is contacting the Charge at The Hague, [redacted] to inform them.

From: Nuland, Victoria J
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:25 PM
To: [redacted] Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kennedy, Patrick F
Cc: [redacted] NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted]; Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted] Dibble, Elizabeth L
Subject: RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

We just asked NEA for hold lines for press. We are getting besieged.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:15 PM
To: [redacted] Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Nuland, Victoria J; Kennedy, Patrick F
Cc: [redacted] NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted] Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted] Dibble, Elizabeth L
Subject: RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

+Cheryl Mills

C05391027 U.S. Department of State - Doc# C05391027 - Produced to HOGR - August 2013

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 5:13 PM
To: [redacted] Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Nuland, Victoria J; Kennedy, Patrick F
Cc: [redacted] NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted] Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted] Dibble, Elizabeth L
Subject: RE: Libya update from Beth Jones

Just spoke again with [redacted], who confirmed the party includes Ambassador Stevens plus three, not plus four. [redacted] has been in contact twice with the Libyan President's office and twice with the Libyan PM's office; their offices assured him they are fully engaged and consider themselves personal friends of Ambassador Stevens. [redacted] has been coordinating with the [redacted] who has learned from the QRF about the status of the compound – currently they are clearing the compound and working to access the party.

I also urged Libyan Ambassador to the U.S. Aujali to engage on this immediately at the highest level.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Burns, William J; Sherman, Wendy R; [redacted] (S); S_SpecialAssistants; Sullivan, Jacob J; Nuland, Victoria J
Cc: [redacted] NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; [redacted] Maxwell, Raymond D; [redacted] Dibble, Elizabeth L
Subject: Libya update from Beth Jones

All:

Beth Jones just spoke with DCM Tripoli [redacted], who advised a Libyan militia (we now know this is the 17th Feb brigade, as requested by Emb office) is responding to the attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi. The QRF is in the compound, engaging the attackers, taking fire, and working its way through the compound to get to the villa, where Ambassador Stevens is in safe haven for extraction. The ARSO is also there in the compound. [redacted] spoke with Amb Stevens by phone 20 minutes before my call (which was about ten minutes ago. [redacted] will talk to the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, and then speak with the Foreign Minister. I have spoken to [redacted] who is also in touch with its QRF contacts to ask for engagement. Embassy is sending medical assistance to Benghazi to be on stand-by.

More updates to follow.

[redacted]

U.S. Department of State - Doc# C05391027 - Produced to HOGR - August 2013

2011253871

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

December 27, 2011

ACTION MEMO FOR UNDER SECRETARY KENNEDY - M

FROM: NEA – Jeffrey Feltman

SUBJECT: Future of Operations in Benghazi, Libya

Recommendation 1:

That you approve a continued U.S. presence in Benghazi through the end of calendar year 2012; and that you approve a combined footprint of 35 U.S. government personnel in Benghazi, including eight State Department and USAID and two TDY beds.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Recommendation 2:

That you approve the release of the existing State Department lease in Benghazi on Villa A; and that you approve the retention of Villas B and C for office and residential space for the State Department presence.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Background

The Transitional National Council (TNC) recently declared Libya liberated and moved the center of TNC operations from Benghazi to Tripoli. Chris Stevens, the Department's original Special Envoy to the TNC, has been replaced by Bureau of Political Military Affairs officer Mike Miller, who previously served at Embassy Tripoli. Entry level officer Nathan Tek transitioned to Tripoli in mid-December and USAID has shifted its permanent presence to Tripoli. Because of budget constraints and the reduced footprint, Diplomatic Security's current presence consists of two Special Agents, with an additional three slots currently unfilled.

Exhibit 28

With Information Management Officer (IMO)/Management Officer Dana Pierce, the permanent presence in Benghazi is five, down from an approved footprint of 17. The current leases are paid through February 4, 2012, and extendable at our discretion through 2015.

Although our presence in Benghazi has shrunk considerably since the reopening of the Embassy in Tripoli, I would like to maintain a small State-run presence in Benghazi through the end of calendar year 2012, to include the critical summer elections period. Headed by an FS-02 or GS-14 officer, this office would work in close coordination with Tripoli on political and economic reporting, public diplomacy and commercial work in the eastern part of Libya and serve as "host" for the activities of USAID, PM, and any other U.S. government TDY personnel in Benghazi. Because this would be a smaller operation, Benghazi would continue to be supported by one IRM TDYer for communications and management issues and one NEA TDY reporting officer in addition to the TDY head of operations. NEA also would support the continuation of an LES PSA position to provide translation, policy, and administrative support. With the full complement of five Special Agents, our permanent presence would include eight U.S. direct hire employees, two slots for TDY PM and USAID officers, and one LES program assistant.

A continued presence in Benghazi will emphasize U.S. interest in the eastern part of Libya. Many Libyans have said the U.S. presence in Benghazi has a salutary, calming effect on easterners who are fearful that the new focus on Tripoli could once again lead to their neglect and exclusion from reconstruction and wealth distribution and strongly favor a permanent U.S. presence in the form of a full consulate. They feel the United States will help ensure they are dealt with fairly. TNC officials have said some government agencies may shift their headquarters to Benghazi (such as the National Oil Company). Other government agencies and corporations already have their headquarters in Benghazi and will likely remain there for the foreseeable future. The team will be able to monitor political trends (Islamists, tribes, political parties, militias) and public sentiment regarding the "new Libya," as well as report on the critical period leading up to and through Libya's first post-Qadhafi elections. Programmatic benefits to a continued U.S. presence in Benghazi include building on USAID/OTI's programs to strengthen civil society groups, media training, and capacity building in municipal councils. We should continue to engage with the populace, particularly with the large population of Libyan youth, an important and receptive audience with high expectations for the post-revolution period.

Italy, Tunisia, Morocco, Malta, Finland, Turkey, Egypt, Sweden, Sudan, and the Palestinian Authority all have consulates in Benghazi. In informal conversations, representatives of the United Kingdom and French have said their governments would be unlikely to maintain offices there for budgetary reasons. The European Union and the United Nations have not announced whether they will maintain long-term presences in Benghazi.

Facilities

The current Benghazi State platform (Villas A, B, and C) is a 13-acre walled compound with 3.5 villas, office space, and a dining hall. Although all groups have come to the conclusion that co-location is the best and most economical option for continued presence, the State presence cannot be accommodated at the annex, and the current State facility is not large enough to permit co-location. Tripoli Facility Manager George Ibarra recently traveled to Benghazi to study a proposed villa compound (Villa D – see Tab) adjacent to the annex property and determined that the electrical, plumbing and physical security work needed to bring the facility up to an acceptable standard would negate any cost savings of the move.

The current Villa Compound is much larger than we need for the duration of our presence in Benghazi. We currently pay $70,000/month for the three properties (A - $28,000/month, B - $14,000/month, and C - $28,000/month). NEA proposes to release the Villa A property and use Villa C for residential and Villa B for offices, dining facility, and TDY housing. If you agree with this course of action, NEA will work with DS to rapidly implement a series of corrective security measures as part of the consolidation of the State footprint. We have one-year leases renewable for up to three additional one-year periods on these villas, with an option to terminate without financial penalty after the first six months, with sixty days notice. In order to avoid any additional rent payments on Villa A, NEA proposes to give immediate notice of termination, but would like to retain the leases on Villas B and C through the end of calendar year 2012 or until such time as an appropriate alternate property can be found that would allow for co-location of all U.S. government personnel in Benghazi.

Attachment:
Tab – Benghazi proposal

Approved: NEA/FO: Jeffrey D. Feltman

Drafted: NEA-SCA/EX – Karen Keshap, [redacted]

Cleared:

NEA/FO: RMaxwell	
NEA-SCA/EX: LLohman	
NEA/MAG: ESidereas	ok
NEA-SCA/EX: KHanson	ok
NEA-SCA/EX/PMO: GKHill	ok
NEA-SCA/EX/Budget: VLawrence	ok
M: EDar	ok
OBO/FO: JHochuli, Acting	ok
DS: GSmith, Acting	ok
RM: KEisenhardt	ok
A: JFlynn	ok
D(N): SCarl-Yoder	ok
D(B): JSawyer	(info)
P: CGrantham	(info)
Benghazi: MMiller	ok

United Nations S/2014/106

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2014

Original: English

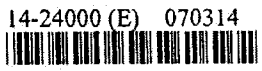
Note by the President of the Security Council

In paragraph 14 (d) of resolution 2095 (2013), the Security Council requested the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011) to provide a final report to the Council with its findings and recommendations.

Accordingly, the President hereby circulates the report dated 15 February 2014 received from the Panel of Experts (see annex).

Exhibit 29

14-24000 (E) 070314



Summary

The final report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), and most recently extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2095 (2013), presents an analysis of the implementation of the measures imposed by resolution 1970 (2011), including the arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban, and the modifications contained in subsequent resolutions — 1973 (2011), 2009 (2011), 2016 (2011), 2040 (2012) and 2095 (2013) respectively — for the period since its appointment on 3 April 2013 until the date of the present report. The report also outlines the Panel's findings and presents recommendations to the Security Council, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) and Member States, including Libya, to improve the implementation of the relevant measures. The Panel also seeks to highlight instances of non-compliance based on substantiated data and information obtained.

The Panel's assessment is based on information received from Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other interested parties during the period under review. The Panel also conducted several assessment trips to Libya, other parts of Africa, Europe and the Middle East during the period, during which it undertook arms inspections, when possible, and met with key stakeholders, including the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. During that time, the Panel visited a total of 15 countries and travelled to Libya nine times.

The consultations held with individuals, regional organizations and relevant United Nations bodies, together with the information received from various Member States, afforded the Panel the opportunity to obtain extensive information in pursuance of its mandate, including the evolution of the political and security context in Libya and its impact on the region.

Implementation of the arms embargo

The proliferation of weapons to and from Libya remains a major challenge for the stability of the country and the region. Despite some positive developments in rebuilding the Libyan security sector, most weapons are still under the control of non-State armed actors and border control systems remain ineffective.

Over the past three years, Libya has become a primary source of illicit weapons. In the course of this mandate, the Panel has continued to investigate leads relating to transfers of such weapons to 14 countries, including several cases that were identified in its previous report. Cases under investigation reflect a highly diversified range of trafficking dynamics, including State-sponsored transfers by air and transfers to terrorist and criminal entities in neighbouring countries by land and sea. This indicates how trafficking from Libya is fuelling conflict and insecurity — including terrorism — on several continents, with different weapons requirements, networks, end users, financing methods and means of transportation. This is unlikely to change in the near future.

In accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 2009 (2011), several Member States have notified the Committee of transfers of military materiel to the Libyan authorities. While the creation of Libya's Military Procurement Department has been a significant development that has allowed for a more accountable procurement process, the Panel is concerned by a number of outstanding issues. Questions remain

increased effort by Egypt to track and seize weapons. Some of the weapons from Libya that transited into other areas, including the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, included man-portable air defence systems and anti-tank guided missiles. Weapons are smuggled by land and sea into the Sinai Peninsula. Representatives of the Government of Israel claimed that SA-7 man-portable air defence systems had been launched against an Israeli military helicopter from the Sinai Peninsula. Previously, the Israeli military publicly claimed that an SA-7 man-portable air defence system had been fired at one of their aircraft over the Gaza Strip.

163. The 25 January 2014 destruction of an Egyptian military helicopter in the Sinai Peninsula by non-State groups using man-portable air defence systems[16] raises additional concerns about possible weapons proliferation. Recent media coverage of voluntary weapons collections organized locally by communities in both the Sinai Peninsula and the western part of the country[17] and their surrender to the authorities offer further insight into the extent of illicit arms ownership and circulation throughout the country, as well as the significance of Libya as a source of the materiel.

Transfers to the Syrian Arab Republic

164. Libya has been a source of arms for the opposition forces in the Syrian Arab Republic, owing to popular sympathies for the Syrian opposition, large available stockpiles of weapons, the lack of law enforcement and a new generation of domestic arms dealers who appeared during the Libyan uprising. Transfers of arms and ammunition from Libya were among the first batches of weapons and ammunition to reach the Syrian opposition. The Panel's previous report concluded that the Syrian Arab Republic had become a preeminent destination for Libyan weapons and combatants (S/2013/99, para. 158).

165. Military materiel continues to flow from Libya to the Syrian Arab Republic with various modes of financing, transport and actors involved. To investigate the flows, the Panel interviewed numerous knowledgeable sources in Libya, including several Libyan and foreign official sources and Libyan combatants returning from the Syrian Arab Republic. The Panel visited Turkey in November 2013, including Istanbul, Ankara, Gaziantep and the border town of Kilis. The Panel met with representatives of the Government of Turkey, foreign government representatives, members of the Syrian opposition and independent policy analysts. The Panel conducted research in Lebanon and met officials, journalists and other sources.

166. The Panel requested access to the Syrian Arab Republic to discuss arms proliferation from Libya with the authorities and to receive access to materiel that had reportedly been seized from the opposition. The Syrian Arab Republic provided information on weapons and individuals involved in transfers, but has not responded to the visit request. The Panel gathered and analysed information about flight patterns and shipping routes and contacted various Member States.

167. Turkish authorities, Syrian opposition figures and international sources all cited concerns about transfers of weapons to radical armed groups and noted that the

[16] See www.nytimes.com/2014/01/27/world/middleeast/militants-down-egyptian-helicopter-killing-5-soldiers.html?_r=0.

[17] See http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/0/89279/Egypt/Egypt-army-chief-ElSisi-commends-Matrouh-Bedouins-.aspx.

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 13, 2012

Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Jay Carney -- Golden, CO, 9/13/12

Lions Park/Golden Community Center
Golden, Colorado

10:30 A.M. MDT

MR. CARNEY: Okay, thanks for doing this, this morning, from a spectacular gymnasium. I just wanted to note at the top that the President spoke with the leaders of Libya and Egypt last night. As you know, we put out statements on those productive phone calls that the President had. And beyond that, I think I'll just take -- we can take your questions.

Q Can you respond to the latest outbreak in Yemen? Are you guys concerned about that? And does that add some more pressure to -- where are you on that?

MR. CARNEY: Well, we are doing everything we can to protect the safety and security of our personnel in Yemen. And since the protests began, the Yemeni government has sent additional security forces to our embassy, and Yemen's President Hadi and other senior officials committed to maintain order and protect our personnel and diplomatic facilities.

President Hadi has publicly condemned violence against diplomatic personnel and facilities. The Yemeni government has also made clear that they will not tolerate violence against American personnel and will hold perpetrators accountable for any such actions. Just so you know, all U.S. embassy personnel are safe and accounted for.

I think it's important to note with regards to that protest that there are protests taking place in different countries across the world that are responding to the movie that has circulated on the Internet. As Secretary Clinton said today, the United States government had nothing to do with this movie. We reject its message and its contents. We find it disgusting and reprehensible. America has a history of religious tolerance and respect for religious beliefs that goes back to our nation's founding. We are stronger because we are the home to people of all religions, including millions of Muslims, and we reject the denigration of religion.

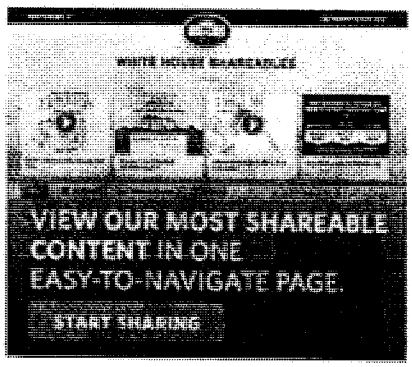
We also believe that there is no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence. Muslims in the United States and around the world have spoken out against violence, which has no place in religion and is no way to honor religion. Islam respects the fundamental dignity of human beings, and it violates that dignity to wage attacks on innocents. It is especially wrong for violence to be directed against diplomatic missions. These, after all, are places whose very purpose is peaceful to promote better understanding across countries and cultures. Governments everywhere have a responsibility to protect these places.

Now, we understand that it is hard for some people around the world to understand why the United States does not prevent movies like this from seeing the light of day. But as you know, our country --

Q Jay, just to be clear, you're still reading --

Q What Clinton --

Exhibit 30



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MR. CARNEY: No, no, I'm sorry, this is me. This is all me. I'm reiterating -- yes, I mean, I'm paraphrasing some of what Clinton said.

Q Reiterating what Clinton said --

MR. CARNEY: No, when I said as Secretary Clinton said -- these are not --

Q -- reprehensible?

MR. CARNEY: Yes, I'm paraphrasing her. The United States had nothing to do with this movie. We rejected -- this is building off of what Secretary Clinton said, but this is not a verbatim quote of her statements.

Q Can you pick it up from "we understand it's hard for some" --

MR. CARNEY: Sure. It is hard for some people around the world to understand why the United States does not prevent movies like this from seeing the light of day. For one, that is impossible in today's world, as you know. But, furthermore, and more importantly, our country has a long tradition of free expression, which is protected by law. Our government does not and cannot stop individual citizens from expressing their views. Those of us who care about religious tolerance and who respect religious beliefs must not allow a tiny minority of people to provoke conflict between different religions, cultures, and countries. All leaders must draw a stark line against violence.

Q Jay, can I ask about Egypt? Is the President considering withholding any aid or putting new strings attached to the aid that's already in place?

MR. CARNEY: No. I think it's important to note, as the readout of the President's call noted, that the -- first of all, that we appreciate the public statements that President Morsi has made condemning acts of violence and emphasizing that Egypt will honor its obligation to ensure the safety of American personnel. The President last night made clear to his counterpart that the United States rejects efforts to denigrate Islam, but underscored that there is never any justification for violence against innocents and acts that endanger American personnel and facilities.

We have an important strategic partnership with Egypt, and that partnership continues. We are focused on assisting Egypt as it -- and the new government there -- as it makes its way in the post-Mubarak era for that country. And we are, as we are around the region, interested in assisting these countries to promote democracy, respect for human rights, and economic development. And that's certainly the case with Egypt.

Q So no thoughts to amending any of that aid?

MR. CARNEY: No.

Q Are you satisfied with the efforts the Egyptian government has taken to protect the U.S. facilities there?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I can tell you that the United States embassy in Cairo is secure and all U.S. government personnel are safe and accounted for. There are protests, small protests, in Cairo continuing, and obviously, we are monitoring that situation closely. And I would note that, again, the protests we're seeing around the region are in reaction to this movie. They are not directly in reaction to any policy of the United States or the government of the United States or the people of the United States.

Any violence associated with the offense taken by the movie, of course, is unjustified, as we've made clear. But we are monitoring the situation and the security of our embassies and our facilities and our personnel around the world. It is important to note that as these protests are taking place in different countries around the world, responding to the movie, that Friday, tomorrow, has historically been a day when there are protests in the Muslim world. And we are watching very closely for developments that could lead to more protests. We anticipate that they may continue.

Q Jay, the President yesterday said that Egypt isn't an ally. Is that a new position, or based on some new evaluation? Can you expand on --

MR. CARNEY: No. The President, in diplomatic and legal terms, was speaking correctly, that we do not have an alliance treaty with Egypt. "Ally" is a legal term of art. As I said, we don't have a mutual defense treaty with Egypt like we do, for example, with our NATO allies. But as the President has said, Egypt is a longstanding and close partner of the United States, and we have built on that foundation by supporting Egypt's transition to democracy and

working with the new government.

Just last night, as you know, the President spoke with President Morsi to review the strategic partnership between the United States and Egypt, while making clear our mutual obligations, including the protection of diplomats and diplomatic facilities.

Q Jay, Republicans are picking up on a column by a Washington Post writer looking at public records that says the President has missed a lot of national security briefings and has not attended one since September 5th. What's your response to that? Is he missing briefings that he should be attending, and what's your response to that?

MR. CARNEY: This line of criticism is based entirely on a fallacy. The President receives the presidential daily briefing every day of the week.

Q I'm sorry, say it again?

MR. CARNEY: He receives a presidential daily briefing, a PDB, every day of the week. He has briefings in person with his national security team most days when he is at the White House. He has extensive conversations with, meetings with and updates from his senior national security team, separate and apart from those specific meetings and from the PDB that's prepared every day for him. And when he is on the road -- as you know, he travels, as is the custom, with senior national security staff and is kept abreast of all the information that is provided in the PDB on a regular basis, and is in regular contact with his senior national security staff in Washington when he's on the road.

I find it -- I think that the President's record, when it comes to acting on -- interpreting correctly and acting on intelligence in the interest of the security of the United States is one that we are happy to have examined and it is one that he takes -- it is a responsibility that he takes enormously seriously.

Q Can I go back to the protests you expect to continue tomorrow in Cairo? Is the U.S. --

MR. CARNEY: Well, I don't know specifically in Cairo. It's just been the tradition -- it has been commonplace through this period for protests to occur in the region, in particular on Fridays.

Q Is the U.S. -- are there any specific precautions that the U.S. is making to prepare for that? How is the President monitoring that? And are we coordinating with President Morsi?

MR. CARNEY: We are, yes, coordinating with governments in the region and making sure that there's a clear understanding about the responsibility of host governments to protect diplomatic facilities and personnel. The President, very early after the incidents occurred in Benghazi and Cairo, directed that security -- precautions be taken to enhance security at embassies and facilities around the world. And that is continuing to take place.

And he is being -- he is very much on top of this. I meant to and neglected to last night read out a briefing he received from his Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough that was focused specifically on developments in the region with regards to the protest, but especially on the progress of efforts underway to enhance security at our facilities.

He will also have a briefing later today with senior members of his national security team from here in Colorado after this event.

Q So was that a phone briefing with Denis?

MR. CARNEY: Yes, it was when we were in the air.

Q Were you able to -- there were reports of one of the third victims, a gentleman from Massachusetts, being identified today. Can you confirm that? And has the fourth victim been identified?

MR. CARNEY: I would refer you to the State Department. I believe that they are handling notifications as well as would be handling any public release of information about the other two victims.

Q Can I change the subject for a minute?

MR. CARNEY: Sure.

Q The sequester -- you guys have to -- a report that says exactly what you'll do. When will you do that? Is that going to happen tomorrow?

MR. CARNEY: Yes, you can expect that report to be released tomorrow.

Q Then, House Speaker says, we've done our bit; it's up to you guys, you're dragging your feet. Any response to that?

MR. CARNEY: I haven't seen that comment. I find it surprising, since the Budget Control Act -- which majorities of Republicans and Democrats in both houses of Congress supported -- contained within it the direction to Congress to take action to find, through compromise, additional savings of $1.2 trillion, and if they could not achieve that, then this sequester was the forcing mechanism -- rather, the sequester was the forcing mechanism to make it -- to compel Congress to do its job.

So the Speaker of the House announcing that he has done his job, when in fact Congress has failed to do its job and that is why the sequester still looms out there, is a rather remarkable statement.

There is a simple obstacle to resolving this, and that is the adamant refusal of Republicans in Congress to accept the simple proposition that we need to have a balanced approach to solving our fiscal challenges. They would rather see deep and harmful cuts in our defense spending, deep and harmful cuts in our non-defense discretionary spending, in education, in border security, in assistance to veterans, in research and development. They would rather see all of that than ask millionaires and billionaires to pay a little bit more to, as the President believes, return to the marginal tax rates that were in place for wealthier Americans under President Clinton when this country created more than 23 million jobs and there were many millionaires coined to boot.

So Congress needs to act, and it can act. One thing it could do to deal with the fiscal cliff -- which is a related matter -- tomorrow, if they're actually working tomorrow, which is always a question, but if they were in session, they could -- the House could immediately pass what the Senate passed, which is an extension of the tax cuts for 98 percent of the American people -- 98 percent of the American people.

The remarkable thing about the refusal to do that is that everyone in Washington agrees virtually that those tax cuts should be extended -- Republicans, Democrats, independents, everyone, the President. So let's get that done. And that would address a significant portion of the fiscal cliff. It would create certainty and security for middle-class Americans and businesses. And it would be absolutely the right thing to do. But because of that adamant refusal to simply accept balance, the Republicans have yet to take that simple measure.

Q Jay, I know this is a topic that we've been on before, but Romney is talking about China again today, and he said the President has had the chance year after year to label China a currency manipulator and he hasn't done so.

MR. CARNEY: Look, I think that this President's record when it comes to making sure that American businesses and American workers are competing on a level playing field, specifically with regards to China, is one we're proud of. This President, this administration has taken significantly more actions at the World Trade Organization. And, thus far, every action that we've taken has proved successful -- this President's commitment to both free and fair trade.

And his focus is on ensuring that our businesses and workers are able to compete on a level playing field, because if they do, if they are, he is very confident that we -- the American people and American businesses -- will compete and win in the global economy.

MS. PSAKI: And I can just add one thing on Romney's record on that. In his own book, he questioned the President's -- the actions of the administration and the President to put in place tariffs on Chinese tires, an action that we know and have seen over the last couple of years has been very effective. And so that raises questions about his own judgment on some of these issues.

Q He questioned the wisdom of the tariffs?

MS. PSAKI: Yes. I can get you the piece from the book, too.

Q So that raises questions --

MS. PSAKI: About his own judgment on what's effective.

Q Can I just go back to Morsi real quick? It seems clear from the readout of the call that the President is frustrated, or trying to put pressure anyway.

MR. CARNEY: Not at all.

Q No?

MR. CARNEY: Well, he was very clear. I wouldn't say he was frustrated. I was with him when he made the call. It was a long and substantive call. As the readout makes clear, the President reiterated the importance that and the obligation that Egypt, as other countries, has to protect diplomatic personnel and diplomatic facilities. And he appreciated President Morsi's expression of condolences as well as his assertion that he will abide by that commitment.

Q Was there something more specifically that the White House would like to see him do or say?

MR. CARNEY: I believe President Morsi this morning -- well, this morning our time, I'm not sure what time in Egypt -- did make some public statements. That was what I was referring to when I talked about appreciating the public statements that President Morsi has made condemning acts of violence and emphasizing that Egypt will honor its obligation to ensure the safety of American personnel. Those were statements he made this morning.

Q Jay, can I ask you about housing? The President barely mentioned it in his convention speech last week. Yesterday, we were in Las Vegas, a city that's been really hammered by the foreclosure crisis. He made a couple of references to housing, so he expanded on it a little bit. But it's clear it's something that the administration has fallen short on its goals. I mean, I think you guys said you wanted to help 9 million homeowners, and I think about 2 million or so have been helped so far. Why isn't he talking about this more?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I'll start by just saying that Nevada is also the place where Mitt Romney presented his comprehensive plan on housing to let the housing market hit bottom. And in contrast to that, the President has taken a number of steps, including the HAMP program, including the HARP program that have benefited -- I believe have benefited the people of Nevada by -- they've received hundreds of millions of dollars in the state as one of the hardest-hit states across the country.

The President is the first to say that this is an issue where there's more that needs to be done. He has continued to take steps over the course of his presidency to take more steps to improve programs when improvements can be made. And he remains committed to doing that.

At the same time, his view and the view of many economists is the best thing we can do to help the housing market is also to help the economy continue to recover and move that at a faster pace. And there's a number of steps he's proposed to do that as well.

But I will say he spoke about it in Nevada yesterday, as you mentioned, briefly. He spoke about it when he was in Nevada in May. He speaks about it when he's in states where this is an issue that the people of the state are dealing with and confronting, and is happy to put his record and the efforts he's made to improve the housing market up against Mitt Romney's any day of the week.

And, at the end of the day, what we're looking at here is who is going to be more committed to taking the steps needed to continue to help the housing market moving forward. And when you put the President's record, when you put the President's effort up against the Romney/Ryan view of just letting the market hit bottom, that seems like there's a clear choice for the American people and especially the people who have been hit hard by this over the last few years.

Q Why didn't he mention it in the speech last week? I mean, that was sort of his big chance to speak to the American people. And, obviously, housing has been a huge part of the problem over the past four years.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Look, he speaks about it frequently on the campaign trail. His speech last week was designed to offer to the American people the choice moving forward, bringing that into focus. It didn't mean he spoke about every issue that he was passionate about, every issue that impacts people across this country. And every time he's out on the campaign trail, that's another opportunity for him to do that. And that's one of the reasons you heard him speak to this issue yesterday.

MR. CARNEY: I think it's important to note, too, that the housing market that this President inherited was in collapse and the housing finance system in utter disrepair. And this has been an enormous challenge, as you note. And the variety of efforts the President has taken to address that challenge have assisted millions and millions of

homeowners. And one that I'd like to point out is through the GSEs and through the FHA, the efforts to allow homeowners to take advantage of historically-low mortgage rates, which he was able to do administratively, which has helped millions of families.

He has called on Congress to pass a universal refinancing initiative, which would allow all homeowners -- responsible homeowners who qualify, even if their mortgages are underwater -- to take advantage of these remarkably low rates, to stabilize their mortgage situation. It would do enormous help to millions of American families and to the overall housing market. And that's another measure that Republicans have refused to pass, which harms no one but the American people.

Q On a somewhat related topic, the Federal Reserve said today that it's going to spend $40 billion a month to buy mortgage-backed securities to help the economy. Any thoughts on that?
MR. CARNEY: I don't comment on the Fed or Fed actions.

Q And the lady? (Laughter.)

MS. PSAKI: I wouldn't touch that with a 10-foot pole.

Q Has the White House heard from Vice President Xi of China --

MR. CARNEY: I'll have to take that. I'm not sure.

MS. PSAKI: I can add one thing about the remarks. I know I flagged for you guys this morning it will have a similar tone and content to yesterday. He'll start out with a topper on the events in Libya, reiterating his commitment to protecting all Americans who are serving abroad, acknowledging how difficult it is for everyone to see disturbing images on TV as they have over the last 24 hours, reminding the American people that together we can meet these challenges. So you should expect to hear that from him when he speaks shortly.

Q Thank you.

MR. CARNEY: Thank you all very much.

END
10:55 A.M. MDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 14, 2012

Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 9/14/2012

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

11:42 A.M. EDT

MR. CARNEY: All right, good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thanks for being here.

Before I get started, I think you saw our updated guidance. As you now know, the President and the First Lady will be attending the transfer of remains ceremony at Andrews -- Joint Base Andrews at 2:15 p.m. That is for the four U.S. personnel who were killed in Libya. And then he will return here to the White House. And there will be press coverage, pool coverage.

Q Secretary Clinton will be joining the President?

MR. CARNEY: I believe that's the case. I would refer you to the State Department.

Q Any remarks out there?

MR. CARNEY: Yes, the President will have remarks.

And with that, I'll take your questions.

Q Jay, thanks very much. On the Libya attacks, was there any intelligence in advance that some kind of attack could take place, especially because so many embassies were taking precautions because of 9/11? Was there any advance warning at all?

MR. CARNEY: I have seen that report, and the story is absolutely wrong. We were not aware of any actionable intelligence indicating that an attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi was planned or imminent. That report is false.

Q On the sequestration, I know you all are delivering the report today. Is there any reason that you didn't deliver it last week as the law required?

MR. CARNEY: I think I took this question last week and explained that it's obviously a complex piece of business and that we would have it by the end of this week, and we are releasing it later today.

Q Jay, as you know, the unrest in the Middle East is spreading to other embassies -- U.S. embassies. The President's critics are saying this is an indictment of his handling of the Arab Spring, that this has given rise to further inflamed sentiment among Islamists. What's his response to that?

MR. CARNEY: Let me say a couple of things. First of all, we are obviously closely monitoring developments in the region today. You saw that following the incidents in response to this video, the President directed the administration to take a number of steps to prepare for continued unrest. And I noted yesterday in my gaggle that Fridays have tended to be days when protests are larger in the Muslim world, and we were anticipating that.

When it comes to criticism, I would note that many observers, commentators, foreign policy experts, as well as elected officials -- both Democrats and Republicans -- have pointed out that the criticism in particular from Governor

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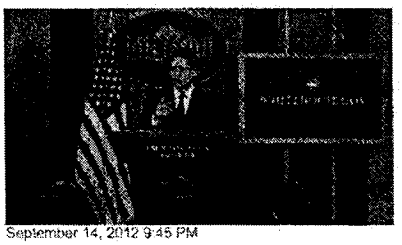

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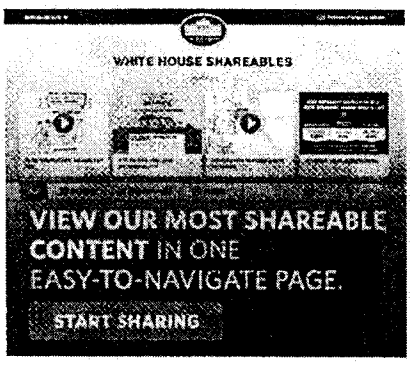

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Exhibit 31

000097

Romney and his team, in what seems to be an attempt to score a political point, has been both factually wrong and poorly timed.

Now is a time when Americans should be coming together. The President is attending a ceremony this afternoon for the return of remains of four U.S. personnel who were killed in Libya as a result of this unrest. And his focus is on ensuring that U.S. personnel and our facilities are protected. That is why he directed his administration to ensure that security would be enhanced around the world at our diplomatic facilities.

He has, as you know, because we've read out these phone calls, had numerous conversations with leaders in the region including the Presidents of Egypt and Libya. He sent a message, a personal message to the leader of Turkey, Prime Minister Erdogan, asking for his assistance to speak out against the violence. And I think you saw that the Prime Minister did that. And the President is very appreciative of these statements and the actions these leaders have taken personally.

President Morsi again today as well as yesterday has spoken out against any violence and committed himself to protecting U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel in Egypt.

We also need to understand that this is a fairly volatile situation and it is in response not to United States policy, not to obviously the administration, not to the American people. It is in response to a video, a film that we have judged to be reprehensible and disgusting. That in no way justifies any violent reaction to it, but this is not a case of protests directed at the United States writ large or at U.S. policy. This is in response to a video that is offensive to Muslims.

Again, this is not in any way justifying violence, and we've spoken very clearly out against that and condemned it. And the President is making sure in his conversations with leaders around the region that they are committed, as hosts to diplomatic facilities, to protect both personnel and buildings and other facilities that are part of the U.S. representation in those countries.

Q Let me just follow up on the sequestration as well. Members of Congress are pointing to the fact that the report that you're due to release today could spotlight the loss of numerous jobs, many of them in defense, criticizing the administration for allowing that to potentially happening and potentially weakening U.S. national security as a result. What's your response to that?

MR. CARNEY: I think it's important to step back and look at what the sequester is. The sequester was put into place as part of the Budget Control Act in order to compel Congress to do its job. The sequester was designed to be bad policy, to be onerous, to be objectionable to both Democrats and Republicans. And it is important to remember that Democrats and Republicans voted in majorities in both houses of Congress in support of this. And some Republican leaders who are now decrying the sequester were very vocal in their support of it as part of this package, the Budget Control Act, last year.

The whole point of it was to compel Congress to take action to further reduce our deficit, to find $1.2 trillion in additional cuts -- cuts that should come in a balanced, thoughtful way through policy decisions and not in a kind of across-the-board draconian manner that is written into the sequester.

What has been an obstacle to the achievement of reasonable cuts that would account for the $1.2 trillion called for in the Budget Control Act has been the adamant refusal of Republicans to accept the fundamental principle that we ought to deal with our fiscal challenges in a balanced way. Republicans have, unfortunately, made clear that they would rather see cuts in defense that could harm our national security, cuts in education and innovation, research and development, in border security, cuts in vital programs and investments that we make as a nation, rather than ask millionaires and billionaires to pay a single dollar more in taxes.

That's not a responsible approach. It is not a common-sense approach. It is not a balanced approach. One thing that the House could do in its few days here in Washington before it goes off again on recess is follow the Senate's lead and pass a tax cut -- an extension of a tax cut or tax cuts -- for the middle class, 98 percent of the American people. These are tax cuts that everybody in Washington agrees on -- Democrats, Republicans, independents. The President agrees with them. Republicans say they want those tax cuts extended. Why won't they pass them? Because they insist that millionaires and billionaires need a tax cut, too.

The President believes we can't afford that. And we can argue about that, we can argue about whether or not the top 2 percent of taxpayers in America deserve another tax cut as part of the election, and then that can be decided by the election.

But why not, for the sake of the middle class, for the sake of economic stability, for the sake of dealing with a large

consumption constant. These developments have had substantial economic and energy security benefits, and they are helping to reduce carbon emissions in the energy sector and thereby tackle the challenge posed by climate change.

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portion of the fiscal cliff, pass the tax cut for 98 percent of the American people today? That would be a very welcome sign I think to the American people that Congress is taking its responsibility seriously and Congress is addressing these challenges in a thoughtful and bipartisan and balanced way.

Jake.

Q My colleague from the Associated Press asked you a direct question, was there any intelligence suggesting that there would be an attack on the U.S. consulates. You said that a story -- referred to a story being false and said there was no actionable intelligence. But you didn't answer his question. Was there any intelligence, period -- intelligence, period -- suggesting that there was going to be an attack on either the embassy --

MR. CARNEY: There was no intelligence that in any way could have been acted on to prevent these attacks. It is -- I mean, I think the DNI spokesman was very declarative about this that the report is false. The report suggested that there was intelligence that was available prior to this that led us to believe that this facility would be attacked, and that is false.

Q Why was there not adequate security around Ambassador Stevens?

MR. CARNEY: In terms of the security at the Benghazi facility or post, I would have to refer you to the State Department for specifics about what security was there. There was a security presence. It was unfortunately not enough to resist the attacks that we saw and resulted in the tragic loss of life. But there was security.

It is also the case that in reaction to this the President has ordered that we review all of our security arrangements for embassy facilities and other diplomatic facilities around the world. But in terms of the specific security that was in place at Benghazi, I'd have to refer you to the State Department.

Q Wouldn't it seem logical that the anniversary of 9/11 would be a time that you would want to have extra security around diplomats and military posts?

MR. CARNEY: Well, as you know, we are very vigilant around anniversaries like 9/11. The President is always briefed and brought up to speed on all the precautions being taken. But let's be --

Q But saying you're very vigilant and being very vigilant are different things.

MR. CARNEY: Jake, let's be clear, these protests were in reaction to a video that had spread to the region --

Q At Benghazi? What happened at Benghazi --

MR. CARNEY: We certainly don't know. We don't know otherwise. We have no information to suggest that it was a preplanned attack. The unrest we've seen around the region has been in reaction to a video that Muslims, many Muslims find offensive. And while the violence is reprehensible and unjustified, it is not a reaction to the 9/11 anniversary that we know of, or to U.S. policy.

Q But the group around the Benghazi post was well armed. It was a well-coordinated attack. Do you think it was a spontaneous protest against a movie?

MR. CARNEY: Look, this is obviously under investigation, and I don't have --

Q But your operating assumption is that that was in response to the video, in Benghazi? I just want to clear that up. That's the framework? That's the operating assumption?

MR. CARNEY: Look, it's not an assumption --

Q Because there are administration officials who don't -- who dispute that, who say that it looks like this was something other than a protest.

MR. CARNEY: I think there has been news reports on this, Jake, even in the press, which some of it has been speculative. What I'm telling you is this is under investigation. The unrest around the region has been in response to this video. We do not, at this moment, have information to suggest or to tell you that would indicate that any of this unrest was preplanned.

What is true about Libya is that -- well, a couple of things. One, is it's one of the more pro-American countries in the

region. Two, it is a very new government; it is a country that has just come out of a revolution and a lot of turmoil, and there are certainly a lot of armed groups. So the fact that there are weapons in the region and the new government is not -- is still building up its capacities in terms of security and its ability to ensure the security of facilities, is not necessarily reflective of anything except for the remarkable transformation that's been going on in the region.

Q Jay, my last question. It was said that what happened on 9/11 was a failure of imagination, failure of American policymakers and counterterrorism officials to anticipate the kind of attack that could have taken place. This would seem to be the exact opposite. Was this a failure by the Obama administration? Did the President and his administration mess up in any way?

MR. CARNEY: Jake, again, what we have seen is unrest around the region in response to a video that Muslims find offensive, many Muslims find offensive. We have seen incidents like this in the past, in reaction to other actions -- cartoons and other actions that have been taken, that have been -- have led to protests and violence in the region. And we have managed those situations, and we are working to ensure that our diplomatic personnel and our diplomatic facilities are secure as we deal with the response to this video, which we believe is offensive and disgusting.

Q So that's a no? Entirely the fault of the filmmaker?

MR. CARNEY: Again, I don't think -- I think you have to understand what is happening currently in the region and what it is a response to. This is not -- this has been in --

Q I don't think I need to understand that. I think the people who protect the embassies need to understand it.

MR. CARNEY: The cause of the unrest was a video, and that continues today, as you know, as we anticipated. And it may continue for some time. We are working with governments around the region to remind them of their responsibilities to provide security to diplomatic personnel and facilities, and we are ensuring that more resources are put in place to protect our embassies and consulates and our personnel in these parts of the world where unrest is occurring.

Q Thank you.

Q You've mentioned a number of times now that this was in response to a video or a film. Would you not agree, though, that it's moved beyond that? That some are stirring violence by focusing on U.S. policy, or targeting the U.S. in general? That it's no longer just about the film?

MR. CARNEY: Well, the reason why there is unrest is because of the film; this is in response to the film. I don't doubt --

Q Well, that's what sparked it. You think that's what sparked it.

MR. CARNEY: We do think that's what sparked it.

Q Right. But it's moved beyond that, hasn't it?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I don't -- we obviously are not polling protesters to find out what their motivations are. There is no question that there's anti-American sentiment in various countries around the Middle East; that's not a discovery I think we've made today. What is the case is that the protesters in these countries are not representative of the broader sentiment in those countries, at least in the sense that -- sentiment that would say that the reaction, the proper reaction to a film that is offensive is violence. As I said yesterday, that's not in keeping with Islam, and it's certainly something that we do not accept. And we have made clear to leaders in the region that they need to make clear that it is not an acceptable reaction to a film, however offensive it might be.

Again, this is not a film that the United States government had anything to do with. We reject its message and its contents. We find it both disgusting and reprehensible. America has a history of religious tolerance and respect for religious beliefs, and that history goes back to our nation's founding. But there is absolutely -- as I've said, absolutely no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence, and we are making -- we are working, rather, to make sure that Muslims around the globe hear that message.

Q It's my understanding that at least four people have been arrested in the death of the Americans. Does the President think that whoever is arrested for this violence should be tried here in the U.S.?

MR. CARNEY: This is an ongoing investigation. We're obviously working with our -- with the Libyan government on this matter. The President has made clear that he wants the assailants, the attackers to be brought to justice. But I am not going to prejudge outcomes or courses of action as this investigation is underway.

Q And then another question on the phone call that the President had with Benjamin Netanyahu. Is it correct that the President refused to lay down a red line in terms of what Iran shouldn't cross with its nuclear program?

MR. CARNEY: This has been an ongoing discussion in the press that's not specific to the phone call -- the one of many that the President has had with Prime Minister Netanyahu. The President's red line has been clear. The President has made clear that he is committed to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. We are completely in sync with Israel on that matter. There is no daylight between the United States and Israel when it comes to the absolute commitment to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

We are pursuing a policy that includes incredibly intense punitive sanctions, unprecedented in history against Iran, of sanctions that are in place as a result of diplomatic work that has created an international consensus that did not exist prior to President Obama taking office and that has resulted, again, in unprecedented pressure and isolation for the regime in Tehran.

There is still time and space for that course to be pursued, because the best way to ensure that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon, does not acquire a nuclear weapon is to force and compel Iran to make the decision that it needs to forego its nuclear weapons ambitions, get right with the world, abide by its international obligations under the United Nations, and rejoin the community of nations by doing so.

It is also the case that this President has made absolutely clear that he does not remove any option from the table in terms of fulfilling his commitment to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. And we've also made clear that the window of opportunity here in terms of pursuing the diplomatic course will not remain open indefinitely.

What is a fact is that we have eyes onto the Iranian nuclear program and we would be aware of any so-called breakout move by the Iranians towards building a nuclear weapon. That has not occurred, but that window of opportunity will close at some point. And Iran needs to take seriously its responsibilities and to forego and forsake its nuclear weapons ambitions.

Nancy.

Q I want to go back to Jake's question for a minute because it seems like the point he's asking is not what the cause of the unrest was, but whether there are lessons to be learned by this administration or by the State Department, or by the military about safeguarding diplomatic personnel or restricting their movements, especially in a country as volatile as Libya.

MR. CARNEY: Well, this is under active investigation and it's certainly a reasonable question. And it stands to reason that there may be lessons learned, as there always are when you have investigations into incidents like this.

My point was simply that we are responding to and coping with and dealing with, with countries around the globe, unrest brought about by this offensive video, and taking action to ensure that security is enhanced and augmented at diplomatic facilities around the globe.

Q On Egypt, can you clear up whether the country is an ally or not? The State Department says it is; the President says it's not an ally, but it's not an enemy.

MR. CARNEY: I think you may have heard me, anyway, address this yesterday. Let me be clear: Egypt is a critical, strategic partner of the United States. As you know, the President had an important conversation with President Morsi very early yesterday morning, very late at night in Colorado, about the need to protect our embassy and our personnel in Cairo, and the need to denounce the violence.

President Morsi expressed his condolences for the tragic loss of American life in Libya, and emphasized that Egypt would honor its obligation to ensure the safety of American personnel. The President is very appreciative of the statement President Morsi made and for the actions he has taken to date to secure our embassy.

Let me make clear that the President's interview with Telemundo was not in any way an effort to change our relationship with Egypt. We have had a longstanding partnership with Egypt and have supported their transition to democracy, and we are now working to build our relationship with what is obviously a new government.

Q We were told that the President was blunt and perturbed in that conversation with President Morsi. What was he concerned specifically about when it comes to the way that President Morsi handled the early hours of this unrest?

MR. CARNEY: The President was very clear with President Morsi about Egypt's responsibilities as a host nation to provide security to diplomatic facilities and diplomatic personnel. And it was a very productive conversation, as I said yesterday, and it was substantive and long. I wouldn't necessarily use the adjectives you did to describe how the President felt about the call. In fact, it was a very focused and productive conversation.

Q And on the sequester, can you describe for us a little bit about how the administration -- what the process was that the administration used to compile this report? Who was involved in making the decisions about what should get cut? And how did they decide what should get cut?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I would refer you to a briefing we're going to provide later on the sequester. It is, as I said earlier, a pretty complex piece of business. And the Office of Management and Budget within the Executive Branch is the principal actor when it comes to assessing these things.

Q Jay?

MR. CARNEY: Yes.

Q Folks at State have said that there was a review of security at diplomatic installations in light of the upcoming 9/11 anniversary. Was there also a review in light of the possible impact of the trailers from this film?

MR. CARNEY: I would refer you to the State Department. Again, there is always, annually, as well as other moments -- predictable moments on the calendar, measures taken, precautions taken with regards to security both at our facilities abroad, but, of course, here in the United States. And we've been transparent in briefing you about when those moments occur and some of the things that are done to help enhance security.

With regard to the specific preparations for 9/11, I would refer you to the State Department for -- as it applies to diplomatic installations.

Q Are you suggesting the impact of the film was less predictable?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I'm saying that the fact that the film was about to inspire this reaction -- well, again, I don't want to -- this is all under investigation, so I don't want to get that far ahead of -- or get ahead at all of the investigation. I would refer you again to the State Department for whatever precautions were taken for diplomatic facilities in the run-up to the 9/11 anniversary.

Q There's also a lot of attention on how the President gets his daily briefing, at least in recent days. And the indications are that it has been in written form in the past week or so. Is it your sense that a briefing in person is no more efficient, no more effective than giving the President his PDB in print?

MR. CARNEY: Well, let's be clear, because it's selective representation of the facts about the last few days. Just in the last 24 hours, the President has been briefed numerous times, directly, by National Security Advisor Tom Donilon, by Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough, by Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor John Brennan, and others, including a secure call at 2:00 p.m. yesterday and another briefing at 10:00 p.m. yesterday. And he did, as he does every day, obviously have a presidential daily briefing today, and constant updates from his team.

I would say that this debate, when you say there's been some criticism, the quarters from which that criticism come are pretty clear, and who occupies those quarters is pretty clear. And I would simply say that this President is a absolutely responsible and voracious consumer of the presidential daily briefing and of the information provided to him by his national security team. His record of evaluating and acting on intelligence I think speaks for itself. And I'll leave it at that.

Q Is the criticism less valid because of the quarters from where it comes? The question remains whether --

MR. CARNEY: He gets his -- but what is the question? He gets his presidential daily briefing every day. He has --

Q The crisis -- the President speaks directly to his national security advisor. Obviously, the suggestion here is that's a more efficient way of communicating than getting a written briefing.

MR. CARNEY: No, he gets both. He does both. He does both all the time -- all the time. And when he is here in Washington he has briefings in person in the Oval Office with his national security team regularly. And when he is on the road, he has phone conversations that supplement and augment the briefings he receives on paper that are specific to the so-called PDB. I hardly think that is different from previous Presidents. And again -- well, I'll leave it at that.

Q You, in answering the previous questions, have said there was no actionable intelligence with regard to the facility in Benghazi, the consulate in Benghazi itself. Can you say the same with regard to the rest of Libya and the rest of the Middle East?

MR. CARNEY: I would refer you to the DNI and to others. The report was -- I mean, I just -- the report was specific to Benghazi, and we know for a fact that that report is false.

Q But, I mean, the Cairo embassy was breached as well. Was there any intelligence that would --

MR. CARNEY: I haven't asked that question, so I'll have to take the question.

Q There was an indication that the President around the U.N. meetings would be meeting with President Morsi on the periphery as these things go. Is that meeting still on?

MR. CARNEY: Well, you just asserted something that was on that you said there was some discussion about, so you kind of did two things in that questions.

The President has no bilateral meetings scheduled at this time while he's in New York.

Q Formal or informal in any way, shape, or form?

MR. CARNEY: None that I have to announce at this time.

Q And on a larger sense, does the President or does the White House feel that relations with the Muslim world in general and the Arab countries in particular are better now than when he took office?

MR. CARNEY: We have witnessed historic change in the region in just the last few years. This President's approach to what has been called the Arab Spring, to this unrest has been to lay out a set of principles and support for human rights, and to make clear that we support a process of non-violent, political and economic change and reform in the region. That looks different in different countries.

There are countries where the transition has occurred or is occurring, like Egypt, Yemen, Libya, and Tunisia. And in those countries, we are working to help those new governments consolidate their democracies, deal with security needs, and stabilize their economies. In other places like Syria that are still in the throes of a revolution, we have vocally opposed the brutality of the regime and are supporting the aspirations of the people.

You've heard us document and discuss the non-lethal support we're providing to the opposition, the over $100 million in humanitarian aid that we're supplying to the Syrian people, and the diplomatic support that we've provided them.

This is a circumstance of dramatic change that has come because of a fervent desire by people of the region to have greater rights, greater freedoms, greater control over their lives. And we have actively engaged in the region to support non-violent democratic transition, to support governments that profess and demonstrate support for civil rights of all peoples, both genders and minorities. And we are working with these countries to help them progress in a way that is better for the people of those countries and better for the national security interest of the United States.

Q All great intentions at this moment, embassies across the region are under siege, so it appears that the message isn't getting through.

MR. CARNEY: Well, I appreciate the question, or the statement, rather. But the unrest that we've seen is in reaction to a film with which the United States government had no involvement, which we have denounced is offensive.

And as I said yesterday, obviously, it can be difficult to understand in some countries why the United States can't simply eliminate this kind of expression. But as you know, it is in the absolute core of our being as Americans that

we allow freedom of expression that is written into our Constitution and is one of our fundamental principles. And protecting speech, even offensive speech, is a foundational principle of our democracy. But we can nevertheless denounce and condemn expressions of speech that we find offensive, and we have made that clear around the world, as well as here in the United States.

Yes, Jared.

Q I think you just answered my question.

MR. CARNEY: Excellent.

Q The Muslim Brotherhood in both Egypt and Tunisia has kind of suggested they want the U.S. and the Obama administration to apologize for this video. Is that something you all have considered doing or have done?

MR. CARNEY: Absolutely not. We have made clear that we find it offensive and reprehensible and disgusting, but we -- I mean, if in that sense, you mean we have denounced it, we have said we find it offensive and reprehensible, but we will not -- we cannot and will not squelch freedom of expression in this country. It is a foundational principle of this nation.

Q Jay, freedom of expression issues aside, do you know of any government agencies who are trying to get to the bottom of who produced this video? Is there any reason --

MR. CARNEY: I don't. I've seen a lot of reporters attempting to find out its origin, buy I have not heard of any. But I just -- you would have to direct that at some other agencies. But not that I'm aware of.

Q Do you see any reason for any federal agencies to look into it?

MR. CARNEY: I don't. I think based on what I've just said, the issue here isn't -- we all know what the film is and its contents and understand why it is offensive to Muslims. We also understand that there is no justification for violence and reaction to that, and have made that message clear around the world.

The President has made statements, the Secretary of State. We have consulted with leaders -- Muslim leaders around the world and asked them to make clear that violence is not an acceptable response to this film.

Q Was the President made aware of this film before or after the violence?

MR. CARNEY: Made aware of the film?

Q Right. Because it seems like you're pinning a lot of this on the film. I'm just curious when the President was aware of a film that could be potentially incendiary.

MR. CARNEY: I would have to take the question. I'm not aware of -- I certainly wasn't aware of the film before there was unrest related to it.

Q Okay. And if I could just follow up on -- you earlier said the cause of the unrest was a video, then you repeated something similar later on. And I just want to be clear, that's true of Benghazi and Cairo?

MR. CARNEY: I'm saying that that -- the incident in Benghazi, as well as elsewhere, that these are all being investigated. What I'm saying is that we have no evidence at this time to suggest otherwise that there was a preplanned or ulterior instigation behind that unrest.

Christi.

Q Jay, did the White House ask YouTube to take that video down?*

MR. CARNEY: I'm sorry, I'd have to -- I don't believe so, but I'll have to take that question.

Q Or anybody in the administration?

MR. CARNEY: We'll have to take it.

Q And on the Chicago teacher strike --

MR. CARNEY: I believe -- I mean, it wasn't -- again, I'm just -- based on press reports, it was taken down in the region, right, not everywhere?

Q I just wondered if the -- anyone from the administration had intervened or made a request or anything like that.

MR. CARNEY: Let me take that.

Q On the Chicago teacher strike, has the President weighed in with the parties to those talks in any way?

MR. CARNEY: We have been very clear that we hope and expect both sides to resolve this in a manner that is positive for the most important affected party here, which are the students, the children of Chicago. That's the position we've taken. I can't say that there's -- I don't know whether there's been phone conversations with various people involved. I can tell you that we believe the party should come together and resolve this in a way that is best for Chicago's students.

Q So he may have called, did you say?

MR. CARNEY: No, I just -- I don't have any phone calls to report out. What our position has been is to make clear that we want this resolved in a manner that is best for Chicago's students.

Q He's got ties to labor and management, obviously. Does he feel like it's his role to get involved in any way?

MR. CARNEY: I think that we -- what's important here is that the two sides here and all the parties that are stakeholders come together, work out a resolution that gets -- makes sure that the children of Chicago are back in school getting an education, and that everybody involved is guided by a desire to do what's best for the kids, because that's what's most important.

Yes, Jon-Christopher.

Q Jay, it seems like the unrest has now spread through the Sudan as of this morning. Can you shed any light on any conversations the President has had with his closest allies -- for example, Great Britain's Prime Minister Cameron, President Hollande of France, or Chancellor Merkel in Germany?

MR. CARNEY: About the unrest?

Q Yes, any conversation they may have had very recently.

MR. CARNEY: Well, I don't have any other foreign leader conversations to read out. We've read out a number of them in the last 24 to 36 hours, but I don't have any other --

Q They didn't include those top allies?

MR. CARNEY: I don't have any calls with any other foreign leaders to read out.

Q Will he be talking to them over the weekend do you think?

MR. CARNEY: I don't have a schedule to announce of foreign leaders calls. It's always possible.

Leslie.

Q Can you go back a little bit on the call that he made to the President of Egypt? Was there anything in particular that prompted that call? And apparently they've erected a new fence -- a wall overnight, a concrete wall. Was that discussed during the call with the President? Is that something --

MR. CARNEY: I don't think specific measures were discussed. The point of the call -- remember, he made several -- he has made several calls to leaders in the region -- was to discuss with them the unrest and the measures that these countries are taking to ensure the security of diplomatic facilities and American personnel. And that was the crux of the conversation with President Morsi.

Q Did he express displeasure with the initial reaction from the Egyptian government and ask them to --

MR. CARNEY: We gave a readout of the call. I don't really have more for that -- more on that for you. I think he

made clear that we have an important strategic partnership with Egypt. We are working very closely with Egypt and the government there to assist it in helping it stabilize the situation in the country and helping its economy improve as it transitions to democracy.

But the President also made clear that Egypt has obligations, as do other countries in the region and countries all over the world, to ensure that diplomatic representations in those countries are secure. The whole point of embassies and diplomatic facilities, the purpose behind them is to allow for the peaceful interaction between nations to build relationships, build partnerships, and to avoid conflict. And that is why it is so important that embassies, consulates, other facilities, and personnel are protected.

Yes, Alexis.

Q Jay, you were talking about the U.S. experience with reactions to either accidental or purposeful anti-Muslim -- burning of Qurans, et cetera. So my question is, are U.S. personnel who are abroad, who are seeing this erupt now over what you're saying is, as far as we know, just based on a film reportedly by anti-Muslim folks -- is there a concern in the U.S. government that this would encourage others who have these motivations to continue trying to inject these thoughts into that part of the world where this reaction could be predicted? And is the United States or the government making any additional effort to either surveil to protect American personnel or monitor this information, or to consider this almost like an act of war, to be continuing to inject that kind of thought into that region?

MR. CARNEY: Alexis, I think we have as a nation been in a posture, especially since 9/11, but even prior to that, where we have monitored and been aware of anti-American sentiment in that region of the world and elsewhere. And obviously, we are absolutely vigilant and continue to be, and that is the work of many agencies, in particular the intelligence community.

Since 9/11, we have seen periods like this where there has been an unrest in reaction to specific incidents, including Danish cartoons and including other incidents that have taken place that have offended Muslims in different countries and led to unrest directed at either the West or specifically at the United States. And this is something that both this administration and the prior administration have had to manage.

In terms of policy, we continue to make clear that in this case, we find the video reprehensible and disgusting. We continue to try to get the message out as broadly as we can that this video is -- has nothing to do, is not in any way related to the American government. It does not represent who we are or what we believe.

And we continue to pursue policies in the region that are aimed at helping these countries that are in transition, through this traumatic transformation that's happening, towards democracy, towards a better future, and towards -- we hope and are working for -- a strong, better relationship with the United States.

Goyal.

Q Two questions. One, as far as this 9/11 anniversary and violence around the Middle East is concerned, last week there was a peace walk by the interfaith community walking from Cathedral to the Mahatma Gandhi statue in front of the Indian Embassy. And they all spoke -- Muslims, Hindus, and Christians and Jews -- all faiths from around the globe, they were there -- hundreds of them. They all spoke for peace and unity, and they were saying that President Obama has brought peace in the Middle East. And they spoke against violence in the name of religion. But still, we have this violence around the globe, or in the Middle East or in Libya in the name of --

MR. CARNEY: Do you have a question, Goyal?

Q -- in the name of religion. My question is that you think the President needs another message for those people who are being misguided and misled in the name of religion?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I think we've spoken a lot today about the message that the President is carrying, the message that the Secretary of State is carrying, and you'll hear more about that. But I mean, that's -- I really can't go beyond that.

Q And second, if I may, as far as Iran's nuclear is concerned, do you believe that the President has any information that the Chinese companies are helping Iran as far as their nuclear ambitions are concerned? And also, Chinese companies are supplying some weapons to the terrorists?

MR. CARNEY: I don't have any response to that question.

Dennis.

Q Thanks. Can you talk a little bit about how the decisions are made about who the President is talking to? I mean, we saw reports from Tunis and Khartoum just before you came out here. For example, would he not speak to the President of Sudan versus Yemen, Egypt, India, for example, about events and risks in those locations?

MR. CARNEY: I'm not sure exactly what you're asking. He has made a number of phone calls, had a number of conversations with leaders in the region. I'm not precluding other phone calls and other conversations that he might have. I think he's reaching out in order to make clear our position and make clear our expectation of these countries and their governments in terms of their obligations to provide security for diplomatic facilities.

Q So is Donilon or Brennan advising or suggesting specific --

MR. CARNEY: Well, certainly, those two men are part of his -- are very key members of his national security team, but I don't think it's limited to those two.

Q Jay, can you clarify something?

MR. CARNEY: I could try.

Q You've taken about four or five questions during the course of the briefing. Can you be sure to pump the actual answers that you come up with to those out -- to the full press list and not just have them disappear somewhere, as they tend to do sometimes? (Laughter.)

MR. CARNEY: Well, I promise to follow up on those questions I took. If I don't have answers that I can provide, I --

Q Well, can you distribute them to the press list the way you would the transcript of the briefing, et cetera? Because we all share the same questions.

MR. CARNEY: If we have the answers that are responsive to the questions, yes. (Laughter.) I mean, again, it depends on what the question is and whether I'm able to answer it.

Q Jay, notwithstanding your explanations today for the reasons for the violence in the Middle East, there are Republicans -- Donald Rumsfeld, John McCain -- who say the attacks on our diplomatic posts in the Middle East are a result of perceived American weakness. Do you want to respond to that?

MR. CARNEY: I'll just go back to what I said, which is that this is a time when it's in the best interests of the country to focus on the four personnel, the four Americans that we lost in Libya and who are returning home today, and on the measures that we need to take as a nation to deal with the unrest in the region and deal with the security of our diplomatic facilities and personnel abroad.

We are happy to debate -- and there is certainly ample time and appropriate times to debate foreign policy approaches, this President's record on foreign policy, and contrast it to other approaches and other records.

And there will actually be a formal occasion in which foreign policy will be debated as part of the presidential campaign debates. And I'm sure there will be much discussion of it prior to and after that debate. We're very proud of the President's record on foreign policy and are happy to make the case at the appropriate time. Thank you all.

Q Jay, one last question -- while we were sitting here -- Secretary Panetta and the Vice Chair of the Joint Chiefs briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee. And the senators came out and said their indication was that this, or the attack on Benghazi was a terrorist attack organized and carried out by terrorists, that it was premeditated, a calculated act of terror. Levin said -- Senator Levin -- I think it was a planned, premeditated attack. The kind of equipment that they had used was evidence it was a planned, premeditated attack. Is there anything more you can -- now that the administration is briefing senators on this, is there anything more you can tell us?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I think we wait to hear from administration officials. Again, it's actively under investigation, both the Benghazi attack and incidents elsewhere. And my point was that we don't have and did not have concrete evidence to suggest that this was not in reaction to the film. But we're obviously investigating the matter, and I'll certainly -- I'm sure both the Department of Defense and the White House and other places will have more to say about that as more information becomes available.

Q Thank you.

MR. CARNEY: Thanks.

Q Week ahead, Jay?

MR. CARNEY: Do we have a week ahead? I don't have one yet, so we'll have to put it out on paper. Thank you.

END
12:38 P.M. EDT

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"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."
-- George Santayana, Reason in Common Sense (1905)

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Title III of the Omnibus Diplomatic and Antiterrorism Act of 1986, 22 U.S.C. § 4831 *et seq.*, (the "Act"), Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton convened an Accountability Review Board (ARB) for Benghazi to examine the facts and circumstances surrounding the September 11-12, 2012, killings of four U.S. government personnel, including the U.S. Ambassador to Libya, John Christopher Stevens, in Benghazi, Libya. A series of attacks on September 11-12, 2012 involving arson, small-arms and machine-gun fire, and use of rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), grenades and mortars, focused on two U.S. facilities in Benghazi, as well as U.S. personnel en route between the two facilities. In addition, the attacks severely wounded two U.S. personnel, injured three Libyan contract guards and resulted in the destruction and abandonment of both facilities – the U.S. Special Mission compound (SMC) and Annex.

Four Board members were selected by the Secretary of State and one member from the intelligence community (IC) was selected by the Director for National Intelligence. Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering served as Chairman, with Admiral Michael Mullen as Vice Chairman. Additional members were Catherine Bertini, Richard Shinnick, and Hugh Turner, who represented the IC.

The criminal investigation of the September 11-12, 2012, Benghazi attacks, for which the statutory responsibility rests with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), was still underway at the time of this report. The Board enjoyed excellent cooperation with the Department of Justice and FBI throughout preparation of this report. The key questions surrounding the identity, actions and motivations of the perpetrators remain to be determined by the ongoing criminal investigation.

As called for by the Act, this report examines: whether the attacks were security related; whether security systems and procedures were adequate and implemented properly; the impact of intelligence and information availability; whether any other facts or circumstances in these cases may be relevant to appropriate security management of U.S. missions worldwide; and, finally, whether any U.S. government employee or contractor, as defined by the Act, breached her or his duty.

Exhibit 32

and never formally notified to the Libyan government. Stevens arrived in Tripoli on May 26, 2012, to replace Cretz as Ambassador.

Throughout Libya, the security vacuum left by Qaddafi's departure, the continued presence of pro-Qaddafi supporters, the prevalence of and easy access to weapons, the inability of the interim government to reestablish a strong security apparatus, and the resulting weakness of those security forces that remained led to a volatile situation in which militias previously united in opposition to Qaddafi were now jockeying for position in the new Libya. Frequent clashes, including assassinations, took place between contesting militias. Fundamentalist influence with Salafi and al Qaeda connections was also growing, including notably in the eastern region. Public attitudes in Benghazi continued to be positive toward Americans, and it was generally seen as safer for Americans given U.S support of the TNC during the war. However, 2012 saw an overall deterioration of the security environment in Benghazi, as highlighted by a series of security incidents involving the Special Mission, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and third-country nationals and diplomats:

- March 18, 2012 – Armed robbery occurs at the British School in Benghazi.
- March 22, 2012 – Members of a militia searching for a suspect fire their weapons near the SMC and attempt to enter.
- April 2, 2012 – A UK armored diplomatic vehicle is attacked after driving into a local protest. The vehicle was damaged but occupants uninjured.
- April 6, 2012 – A gelatina bomb (traditional homemade explosive device used for fishing) is thrown over the SMC north wall.
- April 10, 2012 – An IED (gelatina or dynamite stick) is thrown at the motorcade of the UN Special Envoy to Libya in Benghazi.
- April 26, 2012 – Special Mission Benghazi principal officer is evacuated from International Medical University (IMU) after a fistfight escalated to gunfire between Tripoli-based trade delegation security personnel and IMU security.
- April 27, 2012 – Two South African nationals in Libya as part of U.S.-funded weapons abatement, unexploded ordnance removal and demining project are detained at gunpoint by militia, questioned and released.
- May 22, 2012 – Benghazi International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) building struck by rocket propelled grenades (RPGs).
- May 28, 2012 – A previously unknown organization, Omar Abdurrahman group, claims responsibility for the ICRC attack and issues a threat against the United States on social media sites.

- June 6, 2012 – IED attack on the SMC. The IED detonates with no injuries but blows a large hole in the compound's exterior wall. Omar Abdurrahman group makes an unsubstantiated claim of responsibility.
- June 8, 2012 – Two hand grenades target a parked UK diplomatic vehicle in Sabha (800 km south of Benghazi).
- June 11, 2012 – While in Benghazi, the British Ambassador's convoy is attacked with an RPG and possible AK-47s. Two UK security officers are injured; the UK closes its mission in Benghazi the following day.
- June 12, 2012 – An RPG attack is made on the ICRC compound in Misrata (400 km west of Benghazi).
- June 18, 2012 – Protestors storm the Tunisian consulate in Benghazi.
- July 29, 2012 – An IED is found on grounds of the Tibesti Hotel.
- July 30, 2012 – Sudanese Consul in Benghazi is carjacked and driver beaten.
- July 31, 2012 – Seven Iranian-citizen ICRC workers abducted in Benghazi.
- August 5, 2012 – ICRC Misrata office is attacked with RPGs. ICRC withdraws its representatives from Misrata and Benghazi.
- August 9, 2012 – A Spanish-American dual national NGO worker is abducted from the Islamic Cultural Center in Benghazi and released the same day.
- August 20, 2012 – A small bomb is thrown at an Egyptian diplomat's vehicle parked outside of the Egyptian consulate in Benghazi.

It is worth noting that the events above took place against a general backdrop of political violence, assassinations targeting former regime officials, lawlessness, and an overarching absence of central government authority in eastern Libya. While the June 6 IED at the SMC and the May ICRC attack were claimed by the same group, none of the remaining attacks were viewed in Tripoli and Benghazi as linked or having common perpetrators, which were not viewed as linked or having common perpetrators. This also tempered reactions in Washington. Furthermore, the Board believes that the longer a post is exposed to continuing high levels of violence the more it comes to consider security incidents which might otherwise provoke a reaction as normal, thus raising the threshold for an incident to cause a reassessment of risk and mission continuation. This was true for both people on the ground serving in Libya and in Washington.

While the June IED attack and the RPG attack targeting the UK convoy in Benghazi prompted the Special Mission to reduce movements off compound and have a one-week pause between principal officers, the successful nature of Libya's

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Ex-CIA chief Petraeus testifies Benghazi attack was al Qaeda-linked terrorism

By the **CNN Wire Staff**
updated 9:02 PM EST, Fri November 16, 2012

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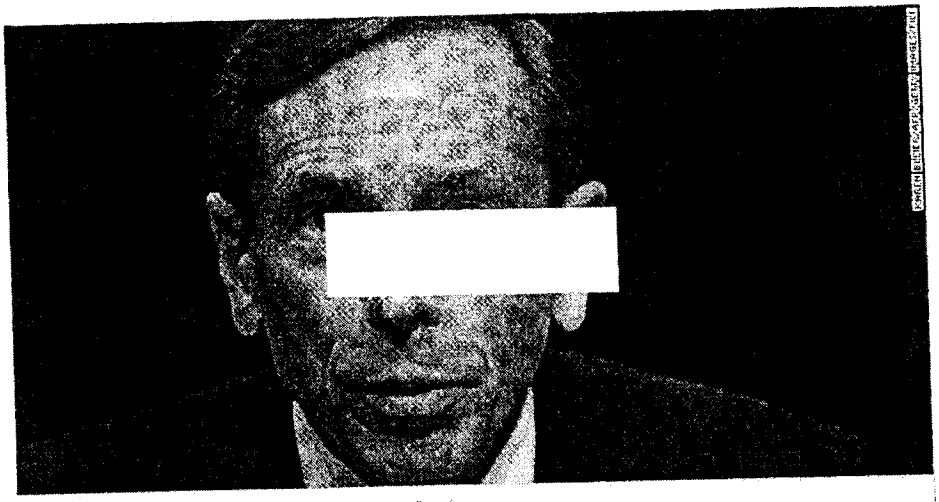
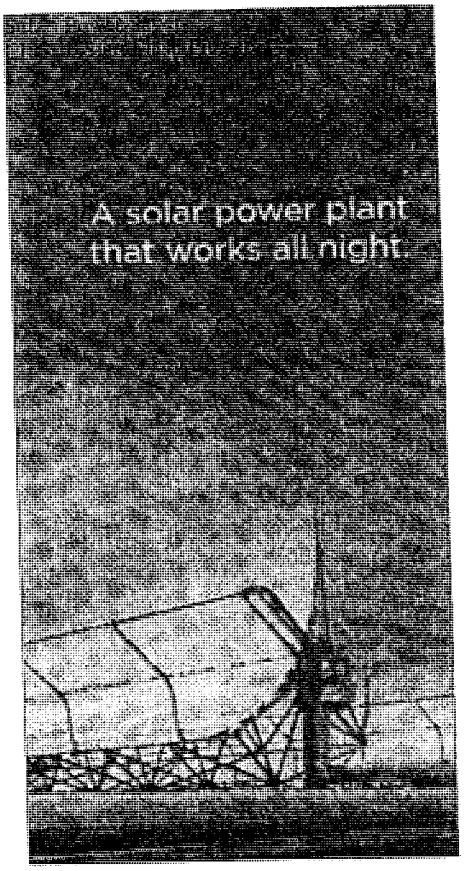


Petraeus hearing doesn't clear confusion



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STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rep. Peter King says David Petraeus' account differs from an earlier assessment
- A U.S. ambassador and three others were killed in the Benghazi attack
- Lawmakers say Petraeus said his resignation had nothing to do with Benghazi

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Washington (CNN) -- Former CIA Director David Petraeus testified on Capitol Hill Friday that the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, in September was an act of terrorism committed by al Qaeda-linked militants.

That's according to U.S. Rep. Peter King, R-New York, who spoke to reporters after a closed hearing in the House, which lasted an hour and 20 minutes.

King said Petraeus' testimony differed from an earlier assessment the former CIA director gave lawmakers just days after the September 11 attack, which left four Americans dead, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

"He (Petraeus) ... stated that he thought all along he made it clear that there was significant terrorist involvement, and that is not my recollection of what he told us on September 14," King said.

"The clear impression we were given (in September) was that the overwhelming amount of evidence was that it arose out of a spontaneous demonstration, and was not a terrorist attack," he said.

U.S. officials initially said the violence erupted spontaneously amid a large protest about a privately made video produced in the United

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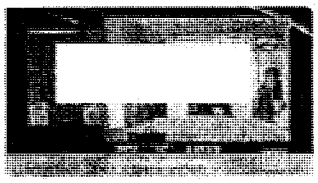
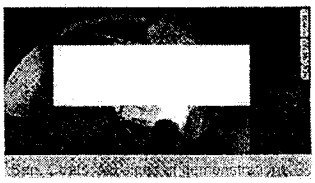
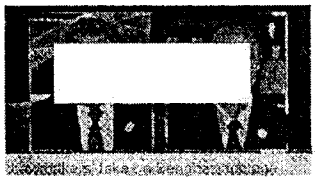
Indians: End 'degrading' rape exam
updated 10:26 AM EST, Wed February 6, 2013

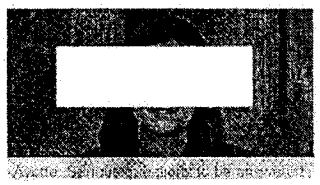
Advocates say the exam includes unnecessarily invasive and irrelevant procedures -- like a so-called "two finger" test.

Exhibit 33









States that mocked the Prophet Mohammed. The intelligence community later revised its assessment, saying it believes the attack was a planned terrorist assault.

King said that the word spontaneous was minimized during Petraeus' testimony Friday, which was given one week after he resigned from the CIA. Lawmakers said they didn't ask him about why he left the agency. Petraeus has admitted an extramarital affair with his biographer.

Critics of the administration have suggested that his resignation might be linked to fallout over the attack.

What do we know so far about the Petraeus scandal?

The Benghazi attack became a political hot button during a presidential election year and raised questions regarding issues such as security at the compound and the Obama administration's initial description of the events.

King told reporters that he likes Petraeus and that it was uncomfortable, at times, to interview a man he considers a friend.

"He was a strong soldier. Very professional, very knowledgeable, very strong," King said. "He's a solid guy. I consider him a friend, which made the questioning tough. You realize the human tragedy here."

After he spoke at the House Intelligence hearing, Petraeus testified in front of the Senate Intelligence Committee. He was ushered into both sessions without reporters being able to get a camera shot of him, and after he testified he left the premises, CNN learned.

Petraeus was not asked to testify under oath, King said.

King and other lawmakers said Petraeus testified that his resignation had nothing to do with the consulate attack.

That matches what Petraeus told Kyra Phillips of HLN, CNN's sister network. He said his resignation was solely a result of his extramarital affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell. He added that he never passed classified information to her.

Prior to Friday's hearings, it was thought that Petraeus would tell lawmakers that the CIA knew soon after the attack that Ansar al Sharia was responsible for it, according to an official with knowledge of the case. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject matter.

Ansar al Sharia is more of a label than an organization, one that's been adopted by conservative Salafist groups across the Arab world.

Related: What is Ansar al Sharia?

It was not known whether Petraeus spoke specifically about Ansar al Sharia during Friday's sessions.

After the House committee hearing, Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Maryland, said the confusion over the consulate incident arose from

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updated 7:09 PM EST, Tue February 5, 2013

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updated 10:48 AM EST, Tue February 5, 2013

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updated 12:07 AM EST, Wed February 6, 2013

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updated 7:15 AM EST, Tue February 5, 2013

Musician Daniela Mercury has sold more than 12 million albums worldwide over a career span of nearly 30 years.

Photos: Faces of the world

Photojournalist Alison Wright travelled the world to capture its many faces in her latest book, "Face to Face: Portraits of the Human Spirit."

How to fix a soccer match
updated 7:06 PM EST, Tue February 5, 2013

Europol claims 380 soccer matches, including top level ones, were fixed - as the scandal widens, CNN's Dan Rivers looks at how it's done.

there being essentially two threads of violence: one caused by the protest, which was chaotic, and a second that was orchestrated by terrorists, which was highly coordinated.

There were "two different types of situations at play," Ruppersberger said, explaining that in the hours and days after the attack, it was naturally difficult to clearly discern what happened.

Intelligence evolves, he said, and new information comes out when agents obtain it. He played down the idea that there was something untoward going on.

Petraeus: I did not pass on classified information

The former CIA chief has said there was a stream of intelligence from multiple sources, including video at the scene, that indicated Ansar al Sharia was behind the attack, according to an official with knowledge of the situation.

Meanwhile, separate intelligence indicated the violence at the consulate was inspired by protests in Egypt over an ostensibly anti-Islam film clip that was privately produced in the United States. The movie, "Innocence of Muslims," portrayed the Prophet Mohammed as a womanizing buffoon.

There were 20 intelligence reports that indicated that anger about the film may be to blame, the official said.

The CIA eventually disproved those reports, but not before Petraeus' initial briefing to Congress when he discussed who might be behind the attack and what prompted it. During that briefing, he raised Ansar al Sharia's possible connection as well as outrage about the film, the official said.

Earlier, an official said that Petraeus' aim in testifying was to clear up "a lot of misrepresentations of what he told Congress initially."

Petraeus testified that he developed unclassified talking points in the days after the attack but he had no direct involvement in developing the ones used by Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, King said.

"No one knows, yet, exactly who came up with the final version of the talking points, other than to say the original talking points prepared by the CIA were different from the ones that were finally put out," said King, stressing that the original talking points were more specific about al Qaeda involvement.

Rice has been under fire for suggesting the attack on the consulate was a spontaneous event spurred by a protest against the anti-Muslim film.

The three unclassified talking points that were used by Rice on September 16 were read aloud to reporters on the Hill Friday.

They are:

-- The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi and subsequently its annex. There are indications that extremists participated in the

Disney: Star Wars spinoffs there will be
updated 7:37 AM EST, Wed February 6, 2013

That galaxy far, far away is apparently bigger than first thought. The "Star Wars" franchise will get two spinoff movies, Disney announced.

15 biggest souvenir-buying no-no's
updated 2:16 AM EST, Fri February 8, 2013

It's an essential part of any trip, an activity we all take part in. Yet almost none of us are any good at it. Souvenir buying is too often an obligatory slog.

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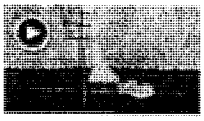

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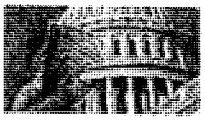

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violent demonstrations.

-- This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and as currently available information continues to be evaluated.

-- The investigation is ongoing, and the U.S. government is working with Libyan authorities to bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of U.S. citizens.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the California Democrat who leads the Intelligence Committee, read the points to journalists and vigorously defended Rice.

Feinstein said lawmakers should be careful not to "pillory" someone for intelligence failings.

"We have seen wrong intelligence before and it all surrounded our going into Iraq, and a lot of people were killed based on bad intelligence," she said. "And I don't think that is fair game. I think mistakes get made. You don't pillory the person.

"To select Ambassador Rice because she used an unclassified talking point, to say that she is unqualified to be secretary of state, I think, is a mistake," the senior lawmaker said. "And the way it keeps going it is almost as if the intent is to assassinate her character."

There has been speculation that Rice was among the people being considered as a replacement for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, if she steps down as she has indicated.

But the committee's senior Republican, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, said he doesn't think the issue is settled.

He said the concern is not whether the talking points were correct, but that Rice didn't go far enough.

"She knew at that point and time that al Qaeda was very likely responsible in part or in whole for the death of Ambassador Stevens," he said, intimating that Rice should have said that.

Read a transcript of Rice's comments on CNN about the attack

CNN's Dana Bash, Barbara Starr, Suzanne Kelley, Ted Barrett and Chelsea J. Carter contributed to this report

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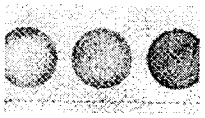

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'This Week' Transcript: U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice

WASHINGTON DC, SEPT. 16, 2012

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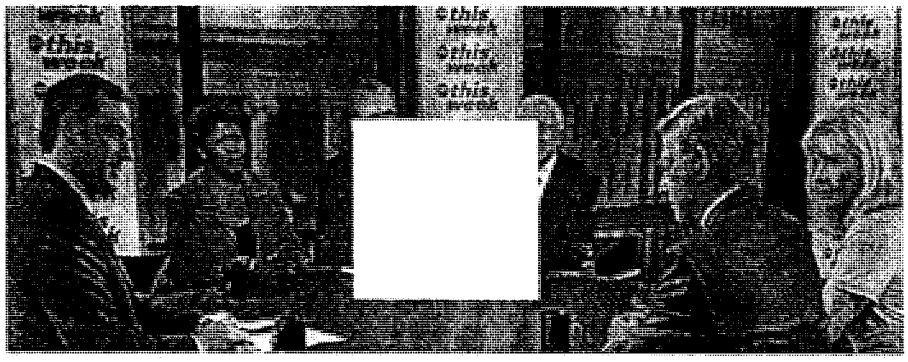

Jake Tapper with Roundtable guests ABC News' George Will, Fox News Contributor and Co-Founder Keep America Safe Liz Cheney, Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe Ret. General Wesley Clark, Senior Correspondent, "PBS NewsHour" and Moderator and... View Full Caption
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TAPPER: Hello again. George Stephanopoulos has the morning off.

We are now in the homestretch, just 51 days until the election, and our powerhouse roundtable is standing by to get to all the week's politics. But first, the crisis that has the potential to shake up the presidential race, the murder of four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador, in Benghazi, Libya, on Tuesday, and the wave of anti-American protests and violence now sweeping the globe.

For more on what happened and why, let's bring in the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Susan Rice. Dr. Rice, thank you for joining us.

RICE: Good to be with you, Jake.

TAPPER: So, first of all, what is the latest you can tell us on who these attackers were at the embassy or at the consulate in Benghazi? We're hearing that the Libyans have arrested people. They're saying that some people involved were from outside the country, that there might have even been Al Qaida ties. What's the latest information?

RICE: Well, Jake, first of all, it's important to know that there's an FBI investigation that has begun and will take some time to be completed. That will tell us with certainty what transpired.

But our current best assessment, based on the information that we have at present, is that, in fact, what this began as, it was a spontaneous -- not a premeditated -- response to what had transpired in Cairo. In Cairo, as you know, a few hours earlier, there was a violent protest that was undertaken in reaction to this very offensive video that was disseminated.

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We believe that folks in Benghazi, a small number of people came to the embassy to -- or to the consulate, rather, to replicate the sort of challenge that was posed in Cairo. And then as that unfolded, it seems to have been hijacked, let us say, by some individual clusters of extremists who came with heavier weapons, weapons that as you know in -- in the wake of the revolution in Libya are -- are quite common and accessible. And it then evolved from there.

We'll wait to see exactly what the investigation finally confirms, but that's the best information we have at present.

TAPPER: Why was there such a security breakdown? Why was there not better security at the compound in Benghazi? Why were there not U.S. Marines at the embassy in Tripoli?

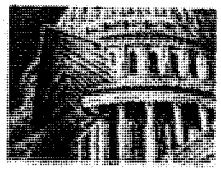
RICE: Well, first of all, we had a substantial security presence with our personnel...

TAPPER: Not substantial enough, though, right?

RICE: ... with our personnel and the consulate in Benghazi. Tragically, two of the four Americans who were killed were there providing security. That was their function. And indeed, there were many other colleagues who were doing the same with them.

It obviously didn't prove sufficient to the -- the nature of the attack and sufficient in that -- in that moment. And that's why, obviously, we have reinforced our remaining presence in Tripoli and why the president has very -- been very clear that in Libya and throughout the region we are going to call on the governments, first of all, to assume their responsibilities to protect our facilities and our personnel, and we're reinforcing our facilities and our -- our embassies where possible...

TAPPER: But why...



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like this -- this is obviously an unstable country. This is a region where U.S. interests have been attacked in previous months. Why were there not Marines there to begin with?

RICE: First of all, there are Marines in some places around the world. There are not Marines in every facility. That depends on the circumstances. That depends on the requirements. Our presence in Tripoli, as in Benghazi, is relatively new, as you will recall. We've been back post-revolution only for a matter of months.

But I've visited there myself, both to Tripoli and Benghazi. I was very grateful to have a strong security presence with me as part of our -- our embassy detachment there. So we certainly are aware that Libya is a place where there have been increasingly some violent incidents. The security personnel that the State Department thought were required were in place. And we'll see when the investigation unfolds whether what was -- what transpired in Benghazi might have unfolded differently in different circumstances.

But the president has been very clear. The protection of American personnel and facilities is and will remain our top priority. That's why we've reinforced our presence in Tripoli and elsewhere.

TAPPER: Look at this map, if you would. There have been protests around the world over the last several days. And President Obama pledged to repair America's relationships with the Muslim world. Why does the U.S. seem so impotent? And why is the U.S. even less popular today in some of these Muslim and Arab countries than it was four years ago?

RICE: Jake, we're not impotent. We're not even less popular, to challenge that assessment. I don't know on what basis you make that judgment. But let me -- let me point...

TAPPER: It just seems that the U.S. government is powerless as this -- as this maelstrom erupts.

RICE: It's actually the opposite. First of all, let's be clear about what transpired here. What happened this week in Cairo, in Benghazi, in many other parts of the region...

TAPPER: Tunisia, Khartoum...

RICE: ... was a result -- a direct result of a heinous and offensive video that was widely disseminated, that the U.S. government had nothing to do with, which we have made clear is

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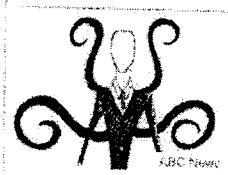

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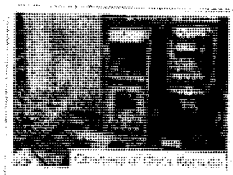

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reprehensible and disgusting. We have also been very clear in saying that there is no excuse for violence, there is -- that we have condemned it in the strongest possible terms.

But let's look at what's happened. It's quite the opposite of being impotent. We have worked with the governments in Egypt. President Obama picked up the phone and talked to President Morsi in Egypt. And as soon as he did that, the security provided to our personnel in our embassies dramatically increased. President Morsi...

TAPPER: It took two days for President Morsi to say anything about this.

RICE: President Morsi has been out repeatedly and said that he condemns this violence. He's called off -- and his people have called off any further demonstrations and have made very clear that this has to stop.

(CROSSTALK)

RICE: Now, and -- and same, frankly, in Tunisia, in Yemen, and, of course, in Libya, where the government has -- has gone out of its way to try to step up security and express deepest remorse for what has happened. We are quite popular in Libya, as you might expect, having been a major partner in their revolution. What transpired outside of our consulate in Benghazi was not an expression of deep-seated anti-Americanism on the part of the Libyan people. Quite the contrary. The counter-demonstrations, the outpouring of sympathy and support for Ambassador Stevens and for the United States, the government of Libya and -- and the people on the street saying how pained they are by this, is much more a reflection of the sentiment towards the United States than a small handful of heavily armed mobsters.

TAPPER: That certainly, according to polling, is the case in Libya. Not the case in Egypt. And since you brought up President Morsi, let me try to get some clarification on something. President Obama was asked about the relationship with Egypt on Wednesday, and this is what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: I don't think that we would consider them an ally, but we don't consider them an enemy. They are a new government that is trying to find its way.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TAPPER: The United States has sent billions of dollars of U.S. taxpayer money to Egypt over the last few decades. And by definition, as you know, according to the State Department, Egypt is a major non-NATO ally of the United States. Why would President Obama say Egypt is not an ally?

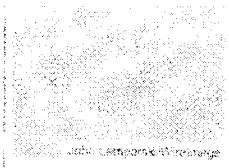
RICE: Well, first of all, the president has been very clear and -- and everybody understands that Egypt is a very critical partner of the United States, has long been so. That relationship remains the same, and the president wasn't signaling any change in -- in the nature...

TAPPER: Was he trying to nudge Morsi?

RICE: The president wasn't signaling any change in the nature of our relationship. Obviously, the president had a conversation with President Morsi and a very productive one, in which he underscored that it's, of course, the responsibility of the Egyptian government as host to protect diplomatic personnel and facilities, including our own, and we saw that President Morsi, immediately after that, took dramatic steps to improve the security of our facilities in Cairo and elsewhere, and then went out and repeatedly made a number of very important and powerful statements condemning the violence and conveying the message that, however hateful such a video may be, there is absolutely no justification for violence against the United States or other Western partners.

So what we've seen is that the president has been incredibly calm, incredibly steady, and incredibly measured in his approach to this set of developments. And his interventions, his leadership has ensured that in Egypt, in Yemen, in Tunisia, in Libya, and many other parts of the world, that leaders have come out and made very plain that there's no excuse for this violence. We heard Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey say the same, we heard the Grand Mufti in Saudi Arabia say the same, that there's no excuse for violence, that violence is to be condemned, and that governments have a responsibility to protect United States personnel and facilities and those of all foreign diplomats.

TAPPER: I know you have to go, but very quickly, was the president in that interview trying to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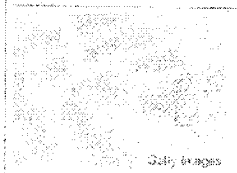
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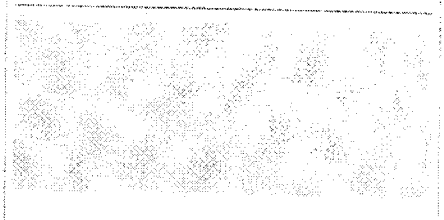

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nudge President Morsi, "Get your act together"?

RICE: No. I think that the president communicated directly with -- with President Morsi and had the opportunity to -- to understand our expectation that Egypt will do what it can to protect our facilities. So that -- that was conveyed very directly, and the results were immediate and quite satisfactory.

TAPPER: Dr. Rice, thank you so much for coming here today and answering our questions.

RICE: Good to be with you.

TAPPER: And we're joined now by my colleagues and friends, Martha Raddatz, Brian Ross, and Christiane Amanpour.

Christiane, let's begin with you. You covered the Arab Spring. You had those exclusive interviews, we all remember, with Egyptian President Mubarak, Moammar Gadhafi in Libya, and with Mohamed Morsi, now the president of Egypt. And, Christiane, I know you've interviewed the prime ministers of Libya, Egypt, and the spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood. What are they telling you about these protests? Who's behind them? And who's behind the attack in Benghazi?

AMANPOUR: Well, what they're saying, first and foremost, is that obviously this has nothing to do with the governments, they don't support this, they've called them back, they say, and today the Muslim Brotherhood has said that we've made plenty of arrests and we should know in the next few days, that they're trying to recalibrate and put their relations with the United States back on the correct track.

They're very, very concerned that this should not disrupt their relations with the United States, whether it's the Egyptian prime minister who told me that, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Libyan prime minister.

And I think it's also important to recognize that this is a seminal moment, Jake, for these Arab emerging democracies. The people have spoken. By and large, they've gone well. By and large, this is a success story. But as we've seen, there are elements that are out of control, most particularly in Libya, where you've got these armed people who are not yet under the government control, not brought into the, you know, under the rule of law.

But in Egypt, they say that they've got it under control, and they're very concerned that they want to maintain their relationships and not have this, you know, deter them from their strong relationship with the U.S.

TAPPER: Brian, let's talk about the homeland for a second. This week, there were three college campuses where there were bomb scares, apparently all false alarms, but they were false alarms. But they were called in. Is there a worry that these -- this wave of attacks could spread to the United States, to the homeland itself?

ROSS: Well, there's concern, but those bomb threats washed out as a real threat. There was an arrest yesterday in Chicago, an 18-year-old who had wanted to blow up a bar in Chicago as part of -- sort of a sympathy for what's going on in the world against Muslims. But in general, they see no organized plan to disrupt or to attack in this country, but there are the independent operators who could be inspired.

TAPPER: Martha, you've been to these embassies. How is security arranged? How is it decided who gets Marines, who doesn't? How do they decide, when the protests are coming, what they can do to calm things and -- and when they will actually make things worse if they get involved?

RADDATZ: Well, I think that's a real fine line. In Yemen particularly, I was watching this week, and that embassy is very, very hard to breach. You have the host nation usually on the outer perimeter. They're in charge of security there. But getting inside, you usually have Americans there backing them up, whether they're contractors or security.

If you saw those mobs coming, I suppose you -- you would say, "Let's go after them," but they can't really do that in all these cases. I think particularly in Yemen, they did a pretty good job of just letting them climb the walls, but not get over the walls. You don't want to use deadly force if you don't have to, because it makes it much worse.

But there are a lot of questions, Jake. You asked a very good question of Susan Rice. Why weren't there Marines in Tripoli, in particular?

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TAPPER: She didn't answer it.

RADDATZ: I'm pretty sure there are Marines in Paris. Why weren't they in Tripoli? And I think that's a question the State Department is looking at right now. And Benghazi, I think you had 25 or 30 people in the entire consulate. How many of those really were security? They overran the perimeter so quickly and were able to get to that main building so fast, that is a huge question.

TAPPER: And, Brian, you heard them talk about the YouTube video. You heard Dr. Rice talk about the YouTube video. They're hanging a lot on this YouTube video. You've been looking into the guy behind -- some of the -- the filmmaker, the main filmmaker behind it. What was his motivation? Why did he, first of all, initially falsely claim to be a Jew, an Israeli Jew? And what was he trying to do with this video?

ROSS: Clearly he was trying to stir things up with his false claims that he was an Israeli Jew, as he put it, that the money for this came from Jewish donors. In fact, the money came from his wife's family in Egypt, and he was attempting just to stir things up. I think, with this very provocative film.

TAPPER: He's a Coptic Christian.

ROSS: Coptic Christian -- the issues in Egypt between Coptic Christians and extremist Muslims. But he sought to create a hate film. The film was never really produced, just the trailer that was put on YouTube.

RADDATZ: It's really like a home video...

ROSS: Like a home video.

RADDATZ: ... and one person can cause this...

(CROSSTALK)

ROSS: I was going to say, it's so interesting that the actors that were called to say the words -- "Master George" was the main bad guy there. Then they dubbed in those three syllables with "Mohammad."

AMANPOUR: I mean, it was clearly a film designed to incite. And it's a film designed by an extremist with extremist views here that plays right into the extremist provocateurs over there.

But one thing I was really worried about, first of all, this cynical and dastardly attempt to stoke more hatred by pretending he was Jewish, and now it reveals that he's a Christian. You know, there have been very tense relations with Coptic Christians and Muslims in Egypt, and the one thing I asked the Muslim Brotherhood, is this going to cause a backlash? They said, absolutely not. We're standing absolutely firm. We're not going to let this have any impact on our relations, because that's possibly a very, very, you know, difficult fallout that could happen.

I'm pleased that nothing happened in Afghanistan. I mean, I think what's really important is to know that, again, this is a seminal moment. These governments have mostly done the right thing, you know, not just now, but in the lead-up to -- to all of this. They're mostly moderate. They want good relationships with the rest of the world.

Yes, the people are going to have a voice, because these are democracies now, in foreign policy going ahead. But as Susan said and as others have said, look, in Libya, more than half the people support not just U.S. leadership, but the United States and the people of the United States. So I think that should be the takeaway, I think.

TAPPER: Martha, before we end this roundtable, I do want to look forward. And right now, we have in the gulf the largest naval exercise ever in the history of the Middle East. What is the message that the United States military is trying to send here? Is it directly aimed at Iran?

RADDATZ: I think it's a pretty obvious message, and I don't think anyone would actually tell you that on camera, Jake. But I think it's pretty obvious the message to Iran is: Don't even try to shut down the Strait of Hormuz. They've got all these mine-sweeping exercises. It is an enormous exercise. Yes, they -- they normally do exercise, but nothing like this, and they're building up all sorts of missile-defense-type things in there, as well.

TAPPER: And, Christiane, just looking forward, the United Nations General Assembly meets this

week and there's a lot of tension right now between Israel and Iran, but also between Israel and the Obama administration. What do you anticipate will happen this week?

AMANPOUR: Well, we've all been, you know, listening to how they're not going to meet the leaders of the United States and Israel. But I think what's really interesting -- and I've talked to a lot of people about this -- you know, Ehud Barak, the Israeli defense minister, is starting to walk back the idea of an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities. The internal intelligence and defense by and large inside Israel has been very lukewarm, if not downright negative, on the idea of a unilateral Israeli attack. I'm being told that -- that that's possibly sort of receding as a possibility, at least any time now.

But then -- and, of course, the Israeli people do not want to see their country unilaterally attack Iran. And I think, really, what we have to know is whether there's going to be any real, significant chance for proper negotiations, this negotiation that's going on right now with Iran and the West and -- and the United States, whether that can come to some kind of agreement, beyond -- you know, short of a kind of military intervention.

TAPPER: And, Brian, very quickly, because we're running out of time, what are your sources telling you about how far the Iranians are when it comes to actually building a nuclear device?

ROSS: Four to six weeks away, if they'd made the decision to do it.

TAPPER: They can't have...

(CROSSTALK)

TAPPER: They are able to acquire...

ROSS: That -- that is some of the intelligence. But they haven't made that decision. That's the key.

AMANPOUR: But, of course, it's so vastly disparate. I mean, others say, you know, it could be a year after they...

(CROSSTALK)

AMANPOUR: So, you know, this is a guessing game that's gone on for years.

ROSS: Yes. Yeah, right, that's the latest claim.

TAPPER: All right. All right, Christiane, Brian, Martha, thanks so much for joining us. Really appreciate it. Great insights.

When we come back, our powerhouse roundtable weighs in on all the week's politics.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KIMMEL: There's a new poll out today. It claims that 58 percent of Americans believe Barack Obama would beat Mitt Romney in a fistfight. Maybe we could wrap this election up tonight. We make it a Pay-Per-View -- we could wipe out the national debt in one night if we had them fight.

TAPPER: With polls showing a slight Obama lead, is it time for Republicans to start worrying?

And the iPhone 5, economic stimulus?

O'BRIEN: Today Apple unveiled the iPhone 5, which is 20 percent lighter and 18 percent thinner. Yeah. In fact, it's just a piece of paper that says, "You saps will buy anything."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

(UNKNOWN): There is something I want you all to know. I'm not worried, not in the least. Our

campaign has a secret weapon, and that secret weapon is speaking right now in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Let's take a look.

ROMNEY: Hello, I'm Mitt Romney.

(LAUGHTER)

And I understand the hardships facing ordinary Americans. For example, this summer, one of my horses failed to medal at the Olympics, so I know hardship.

(LAUGHTER)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TAPPER: And we're joined now by George Will, Fox News contributor Liz Cheney, who's also the co-founder of Keep America Safe, retired General Wesley Clark, ABC's senior political correspondent Jonathan Karl, and Gwen Ifill, moderator of PBS's "Washington Week" and senior correspondent for the PBS "NewsHour."

Welcome, one and all. Lots to chew over. George, this week, Romney's senior foreign policy adviser, Richard Williamson, said of the situation in the last week unfolding throughout the Muslim world, "There's a pretty compelling story that if you had a President Romney, you'd be in a different situation." Is there?

WILL: No. The great superstition of American politics concerns presidential power. And during a presidential year, that reaches an apogee and it becomes national narcissism. Everything that happens anywhere in the world we caused or we could cure with a tweak of presidential rhetoric. Jay Carney participated in this when he said the riots in the Middle East are not about U.S. policy, they're about a video. Actually, they're about neither. If the video hadn't been the pretext, another one would have been found. There are sectarian tribal civil wars raging across the region that we neither understand nor can measurably mitigate.

TAPPER: Liz, Mitt Romney was criticized a lot this week, not just by Democrats, but even by some of his fellow Republicans for responding too quickly and for what was he saying in his response. You actually are not among those critics. You think he got it right.

CHENEY: I think he did get it right. I think that actually the statement this week that should have received more criticism and attention was the president's, when the president went into the Rose Garden 24 hours after the Cairo embassy attack, rightly, of course, condemned the killing of our ambassador in Libya, failed to even mention the Cairo attack. And, you know, I think that -- that in a situation in which an embassy has been attacked, the flag's been ripped down, the Al Qaida flag has been flown, that America's president not to even mention it clearly sends a signal to radicals across the region.

And, you know, I would disagree with George to the extent that we've now had three-and-a-half years of Obama policy, and it looks an awful lot like, whether you're talking about the Mexico City speech in 2009, the Cairo speech in 2009, the extent to which he's been apologizing for America, he's abandoned some of our key allies, like Israel, Poland, Czechoslovakia, he's attempted to appease our enemies, the Iranians, for example, the Russians. He's now getting ready, as we watch these scenes unfold on the air, to slash our defense. And the defense sequestration includes over $120 billion for embassy security. And so the president himself's got a terrible record on national security. And it's clearly something that Governor Romney ought rightly to be pushing.

TAPPER: I suspect, General Clark, that you disagree with what Liz Cheney just said.

CLARK: I do disagree, because I think this is a consistent Republican narrative that Democrats are soft on defense, but we've a Democratic president who's been strongest on national security. He's completely taken the foreign policy and national security argument away from the other side.

He reinforced in Afghanistan. He got us responsibly out of Iraq. We took Osama bin Laden. He's been firm. He's been visionary. He's been tough. He's decisive.

So I know what the Republican narrative wants to be, but when you get below the rhetoric, there are no facts to support these charges. In fact, we've worked anti-missile defense. Poland's happy. Other nations in Europe seem to be happy. We've got the strongest relationship with Israel I think we've ever had. It's very good relations there. So I -- I just don't find much ground in these

comments from the Republicans.

TAPPER: And, Jon, let me just go to some polling, because I want you to weigh in on this. If you look at how the American people feel about who would be better when it comes to foreign policy and terrorism, trust to handle foreign policy, Obama, 51 percent, Romney, 38 percent, trust to handle terrorism, Obama, 51 percent, Romney, 40 percent. That was Tuesday, an ABC News-Washington Post poll, so obviously the events of this last week have not factored into it. Could the events of the last week change those numbers?

KARL: They sure could. It's a question of where it goes. I mean, I think, Liz, despite what you're saying, I think even the Romney campaign thinks they mishandled the way they initially played this. Look at the difference in tone from Mitt Romney between when he came out right after the attack to where he is now.

CHENEY: Well, the Romney campaign doesn't always get it right.

KARL: Well, there you go. But -- but in terms of the longer-term implications here, this is really a potential, you know, danger for the president. There will be questions asked. No doubt there will be hearings up on Capitol Hill about what happened, why there was not more security in Benghazi. There will be questions about the overall situation in the Middle East. Was this really about one YouTube video or trailer for a movie that had been out, you know, for months actually and was finally translated into Arabic and put on an extremist television show in Egypt? Or is there something more fundamental going on?

This was a president that was going to, you know, transform our relations with -- with the rest of the world, particularly with the Arab world, and now the Arab world is to a degree inflamed with -- with very visible anti-Americanism. That's the kind of thing that could potentially erode the president's numbers long-term, even though Mitt Romney severely mishandled the situation.

TAPPER: And, Gwen, how much do voters care about foreign policy? How much could this actually change the course of this election?

IFILL: Not much immediately. But, you know, I find it really interesting, Jake, that a week ago we were post-convention and we were completely consumed with what we talked about at those conventions, not foreign policy, not at either convention, unless you count every Democrat talking about Osama bin Laden. Other than that...

TAPPER: You caught that?

IFILL: ... nobody really -- I picked up on that. I picked up on that. But I find it striking that Liz would say the Romney campaign doesn't always get it right. That -- that shows a little bit of disagreement within the Republican Party about how this week went.

But more interestingly to me, getting back to your question, I don't think people were paying attention to this, even though you can argue very clearly that this is the most important power that any president would have. So it boils down to a point that Mitt Romney was really trying to make, after all, the -- the timing issues, which is, who is in a better position to lead?

The tough position, if you are the guy trying to take out the incumbent, is to make the case that you would be better. Of course the president does better in this poll, because he is the president. He is currently the commander-in-chief.

But I don't know that Americans, when they go to the polls in the end, are going to say, "Well, I think I like the way he handled Benghazi." He's going to say, "Does he feel like a leader to me? Does he feel like someone who could be president?" And that's -- that's -- that's what was tough for Mitt Romney this week.

TAPPER: Liz?

CHENEY: I want to clarify. I think that the governor handled it exactly right when he went out and condemned the embassy statement. Jonathan's point that the campaign now feels like it needs to back is where I would fault them, if that is true.

I cannot imagine a more important set of issues. And I think, frankly, you know, it would be a tragedy for the nation if President Obama is allowed to effectively claim that he's been a successful national security president. And it'd be a tragedy for the nation if the Romney campaign doesn't push this issue very hard.

I know how deeply Governor Romney cares about the country. So I hope very fervently that they will continue to push this hard. But there's no question but that we're weaker than we were when Barack Obama took office, and if he has four more years, we may well be unrecognizable.

CLARK: Actually, I don't think we are weaker. I think the whole point of going into Afghanistan in 2001, which President George W. Bush articulated, was Osama bin Laden, wanted dead or alive. And it was Barack Obama who really put the pressure on and got him.

IFILL: There it goes again. Once again, Osama bin Laden.

(LAUGHTER)

(CROSSTALK)

CLARK: But I think it's a huge -- it was a huge marker. It was a presidential decision in the -- and he was very much aware of President Carter's problem with Desert One. And he did against the advice...

(CROSSTALK)

KARL: Are you at all uncomfortable, though, with how political that -- I mean, that at the -- at the national political convention, that this military operation is used as a -- as a political talking point over and over again?

(CROSSTALK)

CLARK: But here's the -- here's the...

(CROSSTALK)

KARL: The vice president talking about putting him on bumper stickers?

CLARK: We've had, since the Vietnam War, the consistent refrain has been Republicans are the daddy party, Democrats are the mommy party, Republicans are strong, robust, Democrats are soft and weak and want to negotiate, want to apologize. It's simply not true.

We're stronger. We're safer. Barack Obama has been a very robust, muscular -- has a very robust, muscular foreign policy. And as George said earlier, what's happened in the Middle East has lots of factors and lots of causes underneath. It has nothing to do with rhetoric from Washington.

WILL: (inaudible) list of muscular actions by the president, you could add the use of drones, which has been extremely aggressive, more aggressive both in the number of attacks and the places where the attacks are made than under George W. Bush.

I really do not think it's fair to fault the president for throwing Israel under the bus, as they say. Granted, he has a bad relationship with my good friend, Netanyahu. But the relationships between the U.S. military and the Israeli military, which is 98 percent of the point of this relationship, are quite good.

But politically, our profession, graphic journalism, with all these pictures of things in flames, tends to give the country the sense that the world is somehow in chaos. The world's always dangerous and all that, but the chance of dying on this planet from organized state violence is lower than it has been since the 1920s.

IFILL: It's the disorganized state violence, I think, or non-state violence that everyone's worried about when they look at a map and see protests in 20 different places.

WILL: Yes, but it -- but it -- but it beast the heck out of wars.

(CROSSTALK)

CHENEY: But with respect to the state of -- but with respect to the state of Israel, George, look, you're in a situation now, in the last 48 hours, the president of the United States reportedly has offered to meet with the Muslim Brotherhood president of Egypt, who at a minimum allowed the attack on our embassy and has refused to see Benjamin Netanyahu. There's simply no way that

you can claim that that relationship is not strained.

WILL: It is unpresidential peevishness. I take that point.

CHENEY: And given -- and given the fact that Israel's facing an existential threat, which is also a threat to the U.S., with respect to a nuclear-armed Iran -- and, frankly, the one effective program that we may have had in place that would have been able to slow or stop that nuclear program, the Stuxnet cyber warfare activity, which according to the New York Times, members of the president's national security team leaked to them. So this -- this president's record is clearly abysmal.

(CROSSTALK)

CLARK: Well, look, I want to say (inaudible) this question about refusing to meet with Netanyahu. I'm not in the administration, so I wasn't a part of this. But I ask it. I don't think there's been any direct request to meet. And I don't think there's been a refusal. There's daily contact between Israeli government officials and the United States. Secretary of State Clinton has been out there meeting people. We know very well the positions on all sides. The uncertainties, the intelligence, the information is shared. Planning is shared. It's very close. This is a question of the best way to bring this Iranian program to a halt.

TAPPER: And on that subject, George Stephanopoulos interviewed Mitt Romney this week and asked about the red lines, where the U.S. will draw the line in the Iranian nuclear program -- nuclear weapons -- alleged -- before acting. And here's that exchange.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

STEPHANOPOULOS: The red line going forward is the same.

ROMNEY: Yes. And I recognize that when one says that it's unacceptable to the United States of America, that that means what it says, you'll take any action necessary to prevent that -- that development, which is Iran becoming nuclear.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TAPPER: George, where does Prime Minister Netanyahu want this red line to be publicly drawn? We've heard so much about this red line. President Obama has not stated what it is. Mitt Romney has not stated what it is. What does Bibi want?

WILL: I'm not sure what he wants, because I'm not sure how you draw red lines when you can't have confidence -- not from incompetence, but just the limits of knowledge -- confidence in our intelligence system.

Last March, in an interview with Jeffery Goldberg of the Atlantic, President Obama said our intelligence service will give us a pretty long lead time in understanding where Iran is. Our intelligence services did not predict India's testing of a nuclear weapon, Pakistan's testing, didn't anticipate, didn't predict North Korea's, so I think he may have a faith in the ability of our intelligence services to draw lines and put down markers as to where the Iranian program is that we simply actually don't have.

TAPPER: And, General Clark, does the president -- I mean, is it in the president's interest to publicly state what the red line is? Doesn't that mean that he then has to go to war?

CLARK: No, he's not going to state a red line. There probably are several different indicators, and there's going to be a margin for uncertainty, because everyone understands that intelligence, as George said, is not precise. It's been sharpened up a lot. It's clearly a subject of focus that we didn't have on India and Pakistan, so that's not -- you know, it's not a direct comparison.

We're doing better on that intelligence. But he's going to have -- no president can publicly declare red lines. That surrenders his decision-making authority. He's going to evaluate a number of factors. He's -- he's been very clear they're not going to get a nuclear weapon. He says it's unacceptable. He's decisive. Osama bin Laden found that out. And if I were the Iranian leaders, I'd be very concerned.

IFILL: So do we know what Mitt Romney was saying in that interview with George, when he said he agreed with the president that there should be a red line? If we don't know what the

president's red line is, and Mitt Romney and his advisers have said in the past that they actually agree more with Bibi Netanyahu, was Mitt Romney again backing away, getting softer on this issue, in agreeing with the president?

(CROSSTALK)

CHENEY: Look, I think -- I think the key on the intelligence here, it wasn't just India that we missed. It was also, frankly, Syria, the nuclear power plant that was being built in the Syrian desert, which was in 2007 that the Israelis came to us and said, "Here, we have it." On Iraq, the Israelis had better intelligence than we did about the development of that nuclear program. I think George is right on this one. I think that our own intelligence has not been very effective at identifying and predicting where other nations stand in this. And I think...

IFILL: But, Liz, I'm still trying to figure out how President Romney would be different, if he's agreeing with the president on this issue?

CHENEY: One -- one issue -- it seems to me the problem the Israelis have here, number one, I think they understand America intelligence is probably not as good as theirs is in predicting. Number two, they don't believe this president. They don't take him at his word.

So the president says, you know, I'm not going to allow this, and then the chairman of the Joints Chief is traveling around saying, gosh, the worst thing that could happen would be an Israeli strike. I think the -- you know, the Israelis would understand with a President Romney that -- that he actually means what he says, that we're not going to allow, frankly, even nuclear capability. It's not just waiting to get a weapon. It's the capacity to have that weapon.

TAPPER: I want to switch topics right now to a hardening we've seen in conventional wisdom about the state of -- of the -- of the election. We've seen in -- in Friday, these three swing state polls came back indicating, in Ohio, Obama's up 7 points, Virginia, Obama is up 5 points, Florida, Obama is up 5 points.

And, George, one of the amazing things is, Mitt Romney is no longer in polling beating Obama on trust to handle the economy.

WILL: Which is his campaign in one sentence. Those three states have one thing in common: They all have Republican governors. And all three Republican governors are bragging -- perhaps rightfully so -- that they have got their economies up and running. If you add Wisconsin, with Scott Walker, and -- to that list, you have a tension, a kind of disconnect between the interests of the Republican governors in the swing states and the interests of the Romney campaign.

TAPPER: Jon, what's going on behind the scenes here?

KARL: Well, look, one thing that's happened is, during the Democratic convention, the Romney campaign essentially went dark. And what you have seen is just an absolute bombardment, particularly in Ohio and in -- and in Florida, from the Obama campaign hammering Romney on -- especially in Ohio on the auto bailout. I mean, there was a Romney adviser who told me that that famous headline that Romney himself did not write, "Let Detroit Go Bankrupt," could be the headline that costs the election.

They have gone in and actually outspent dramatically the Romney campaign over the last few weeks, which is incredible, when you think that the Romney campaign actually has more money.

WILL: It's particularly interesting because the automobile companies went bankrupt. And so you're -- the argument between Romney and the administration on the auto bailout is one of nuanced degree and law.

(CROSSTALK)

CLARK: ... because what President Obama has said is there is a way to move this economy forward, and -- and Governor Romney's plans don't -- they really don't show that way. I mean, he's talking about tax cuts for the wealthy, closing loopholes, and sort of letting things take their course. And that's been his philosophy.

KARL: Although -- although -- although you had the Obama campaign entirely talking about something that happened during the first six months of the Obama administration.

CLARK: It's true.

(CROSSTALK)

CLARK: But there are other things going on, Jonathan. There's a big manufacturing initiative going on. And all through the administration, people are working to try to restart and re-energize American manufacturing. The Pentagon's worked on DOD procurement...

(CROSSTALK)

CHENEY: General, why -- General, why then do we have more Americans unemployed at any time than since 1980? I mean, I think this administration has, at best, a real misunderstanding between the difference of -- about the difference between, you know, activity and action.

And I thought what was particularly interesting was that at the Democratic National Convention, certainly not from the president, you never heard the word "record." They don't want to talk about it. They can't talk about it because the record has been so bad, as bad as we just were talking about it's been on national security, it's been worse on the economy.

CLARK: Actually, it hasn't. You know, we've created 6.4 million private-sector jobs. Now, we have lost state and municipal jobs, because these -- these municipalities and states have to reduce their...

(CROSSTALK)

TAPPER: Well, it depends when you start counting. But, Gwen, I want to -- we have to take a break, but before we take...

IFILL: We can talk Ohio.

TAPPER: ... no, before we take the break, go.

IFILL: OK. We can talk about Ohio, which is about the bailout, but you talk about Virginia and Florida, you're talking about different things, especially in Florida, where we're talking about Medicare, and those are the ads, and that's the spending, and that's the rhetoric, especially with the addition of Paul Ryan to the ticket, which has got people paying attention.

In Virginia, in many ways, it's the northern part of Virginia which is more susceptible to what's happening in Washington and is listening to the debate more closely. And in the southern part of Virginia, which is more military and seems to be susceptible to the argument that the Obama administration is making. Because we live in Washington, we're seeing a lot of these ads. And we cannot underestimate how much of this has to do with the unpopular governors in Ohio and Florida and how much of it has to do with the effective advertising in all of those states.

TAPPER: OK, we'll be back in 60 seconds with more of our powerhouse roundtable, but, first, a bit more from "Saturday Night Live's" season premier last night.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

(UNKNOWN): I'm Barack Obama, and I approve this message, but I'm not real proud of it.

(UNKNOWN): After Bain Capital shut down the mill, I was out of work for a year. Next I worked as a trucker, but then Bain came along, bought the trucking company, and I lost that job, too. Finally, I got a job at a shoe-shine stand, under an assumed name, working just for tips. But Bain somehow found out, bought the business, and moved it to China. That's when I knew: This is not a coincidence.

(UNKNOWN): Each time Raymond McCoy (ph) got a new job, Mitt Romney and Bain Capital would buy the company, apparently for the sole purpose of laying him off.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KIMMEL: Here's another thing that will amaze you. You don't even have to order the iPhone. Apple has collected so much information about you, it already knows if you want it. It's coming to your house.

FALLON: A lot of people are complaining that the new iPhone 5 is taller than the last model, which means they have to buy a new case. In response, Apple issued an official statement saying, "Exactly."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TAPPER: And we're back now with the roundtable. And as you saw right there, a lot of talk this week about the economic impact of that new iPhone being released by Apple. Take a look at this. JPMorgan estimates the iPhone could add $3.2 billion to the nation's GDP in the next quarter alone. But the Federal Reserve is not counting on Apple. They also announced some steps this week to boost the economy, embarking on a new round of what's known as quantitative easing, which is bond buying, $40 billion of mortgage-backed securities each month to help boost the economy.

George, I'm just taking a guess that you're not a big supporter of this.

WILL: Well, quantitative easing is how the government talks when it's really eager not to be understood. Quantitative easing -- quantitative easing is the government printing money. Now, printing presses are so 20th century. They do it digitally. Never mind. It's -- it's expanding the money supply.

And it's part of not mission creep, but mission gallop on the part of the Fed, which is on its way to becoming the fourth branch of government, accountable to no one and restrained by nothing, as far as I can tell, in exercising both monetary and fiscal policy.

The interesting thing is this. It used to have one mandate: protect the currency as a store of value, prevent inflation. Then we added a second mandate, maximize employment. Now we've forgotten the first and concentrated solely on the second to produce trickle-down economics.

The whole point of this is to drive people into -- out of bonds and into riskier assets, such as equities, great effect on the stock market, where the equities are owned by a tiny portion of the American people, in the hope that the wealth effect, as the stock market goes up, will cause the wealthy in America to spend and invest, and the results will, guess what, trickle down to the rest of us.

Now, banks have $1.5 trillion in reserves. Companies have $2 trillion of cash sitting on the sidelines. Who in America is not buying a house because of a 30-year mortgage at 3.5 percent is too high? Who is not hiring workers because lending is too expensive now?

TAPPER: OK.

(CROSSTALK)

KARL: You know, it's -- it's an extraordinary move by the Federal Reserve to take eight weeks before an election. And economists will differ over, you know, whether or not it will actually have an effect on the economy, but it will have an effect on Capitol Hill. You will see a move to kind of clip the Fed's wings and say, "Get back to the original purpose of controlling inflation." I think that, you know, you hear a lot of talk about the Fed on the Hill, but this gives impetus to doing something (inaudible)

CLARK: I think the thing is, inflation is under control. Yes, there's a lot of money out there. It's not moving. We're keeping interest rates low. We're giving opportunities for investment in housing and other sectors.

But it's got to be coupled with other measures, so the president's announced the new target, to get rid of half of our oil imports by 2020. That will put another $150 billion, keep it inside the U.S. economy. It's a big deal, and it can be done.

He's announced new manufacturing initiatives. We're bringing jobs back from overseas. And we need to -- to move forward and do something about the home mortgage foreclosures.

So there's been some efforts on this. There's some frustration on this. We need some bipartisan

work on this. I remember debating Karl Rove in -- in 2008 on this, and he was very, very firm that we're not going to help people who have home mortgage problems. But when you've got more than 5 million home mortgages out there underwater waiting for foreclosure, I think we need some action on it.

CHENEY: Look, what this is, is the Fed printing money in order to pay for Barack Obama's debt. And the one thing in your litany you didn't mention, General, is the debt. This country is facing a crisis that's a totally unavoidable crisis, $16 trillion we hit during the Democratic National Convention. And the extent to which this president has shown absolutely no leadership to deal with it, you've now got the Fed stepping in. You've now also got another credit -- credit rating agency in just the last 24 hours downgrading the United States of America. That has never happened before, and we've had it happen now twice on President Obama's watch.

TAPPER: Gwen, we've got about 30 seconds...

(CROSSTALK)

IFILL: Well, Liz brings it back to politics. What I'm saying is that you look at this completely through a political lens. Ben Bernanke, every time he steps up and doesn't do something like this, people go, oh, no, the markets go down. He comes up and does it, and people say, a-ha, this is a way of getting the president elected. The problem is that nothing he announced this week is going to make any difference in the next seven weeks, except it's going to create the idea that something is being done, and that's what I think everybody here is talking about, this idea that something is being done, not necessarily something that will have an immediate effect.

(CROSSTALK)

CHENEY: But it's -- but it's an economic argument. I mean, I -- it does have a political impact because we're in the middle of a presidential campaign. But when the Fed is printing money in order to buy debt, you know, it's -- it's an economic argument.

TAPPER: All right. Thanks to all of you. The conversation will continue online. General Clark, Liz Cheney will answer your questions on Twitter @generalclark and @liz_cheney. Just use the hashtag #this week.

"Your Voice This Week" is coming right up, but first...

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TAPPER (voice-over): Three moments from "This Week" history. What year was it?

(UNKNOWN): We have raised this memorial to commemorate the service and sacrifice of an entire generation.

TAPPER: The World War II Memorial opened.

STEPHANOPOULOS: It's taken 17 years, almost three times as long as the war it commemorates, for the memorial to go from idea to reality.

BUSH: A few American troops who dishonored our country and disregarded our values...

TAPPER: We learned about the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib.

(UNKNOWN): I'm appalled. That is not how the American military acts or should act.

TAPPER: And 52 million people watched as "Friends" signed off.

SCHWIMMER: Please stay with me. I am so in love with you.

TAPPER: Was it 2003, 2004, or 2005? We'll be right back with the answer.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

TAPPER: So what year was it? When did the Abu Ghraib prison scandal break and the World War II memorial open? It was eight years ago, 2004.

And now "In Memoriam." We honor our fellow Americans who serve and sacrifice, including those killed in Benghazi, Libya.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: Four Americans, four patriots. They loved this country. They chose to serve it, and served it well.

CLINTON: We owe it to those four men to continue the long, hard work of diplomacy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TAPPER: This week, the Pentagon released the names of three soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

And finally, "Your Voice This Week." Today's question comes from Nancy Burkley who asks, "Who are you going to vote for?"

Nancy, the truth is, I don't vote in races I cover. After I became a reporter, I found that, after I voted absentee ballot on a race I covered, it felt like I'd made an investment, and it was an uncomfortable feeling. So while I believe an active voting public to be vital to our republic and I revere voting, I don't feel as those I can do the best job I can bringing you fair and impartial coverage of politicians if I feel in any way invested in those politicians.

Now, other reporters feel differently. And I in no way judge that. I'm not trying to be holier than thou. This is just my personal view.

And just a reminder. You can ask me questions all week long on Twitter @jaketapper. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

TAPPER: That's all for us today. Thanks for sharing part of your Sunday with us. Check out "World News" with David Muir tonight. George Stephanopoulos will see you back here next week. And Happy Jewish New Year.

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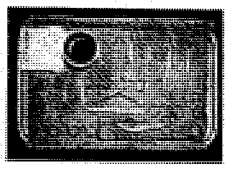
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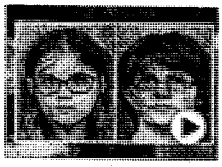
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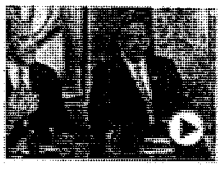
'This Week': Powerhouse Roundtable

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Print Close

Amb. Susan Rice, Rep. Mike Rogers discuss violence against Americans in the Middle East

Written by Chris Wallace / Published September 16, 2012 / Fox News Sunday

Special Guests: Amb. Susan Rice, Rep. Mike Rogers

This is a rush transcript from "Fox News Sunday," September 16, 2012. This copy may not be in its final form and may be updated.

CHRIS WALLACE, HOST: I'm Chris Wallace.

Violence against Americans sweeps the Middle East.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

WALLACE: We'll have the latest from the region and discuss what the Obama administration will do next with the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice.

Then, big questions on Capitol Hill. Who is behind the attack that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya? And should we cut off foreign protect our diplomats?

We'll ask the head of the House Intelligence Committee, Chairman Mike Rogers.

Plus, tough talk from both candidates on the Middle East. We'll ask our Sunday panel if foreign policy will finally become an issue in this campaign.

And our Power Players of the Week, using their Washington clout to fight a devastating disease.

All right now on "Fox News Sunday."

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WALLACE: And hello again from Fox News in Washington.

Exhibit 35

We'll talk with Ambassador Rice and Chairman Rogers in a moment. But, first, here is the latest on the situation overseas. Protesters have attacked U.S. targets in more than 20 nations. Citing concerns over security, the State Department ordered all nonessential U.S. government personnel to leave Sudan and

Tunisia. And in Benghazi, Libya, there are reports of more arrests in the attack that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

For more on the continuing unrest, let's bring in correspondent Leland Vittert, who is in Cairo, Egypt -- Leland.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

LELAND VITTERT, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: In cities across the Middle East, there is now a tense calm that has taken over here in Cairo. Hundreds if not thousands of riot police ready on standby in case violence breaks out, once again. For four days, it was a pitched fight between protesters on the street throwing Molotov cocktails and hurling rocks and then police firing back with rubber bullets and tear gas.

The protesters carrying posters of Usama bin Laden and chanting, "Obama, Obama, we are all Usama."

In Tunis, Tunisia, U.S. citizens have been advised to evacuate the country and/or not travel to Tunisia after violence swept there that killed four people when protesters stormed the U.S. embassy.

The government of Sudan, we're hearing, has denied entry to a Marine Special Operations team that was deemed sent to secure the U.S. embassy after a local sheikh called for mass protests in that country which resulted in thousands storming the embassy and security forces opening fire to try and push back the protesters.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has issued a communique urging more attacks. And here in Cairo, local media reports, there was a credible threat against the U.S. embassy here. Security is at an unprecedented level, with 15-foot tall concrete barriers erected on every one of the entranceways down to the U.S. embassy compound. We took a walk around earlier and outside the barricades, the protesters made their message clear, spray-painted in English "USA go to hell."

Chris, back to you.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WALLACE: Leland Vittert reporting from Cairo -- Leland, thanks for that.

Joining us now our ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice. Ambassador, welcome back to "Fox News Sunday."

AMB. SUSAN RICE, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS: Thank you.

WALLACE: This week, there have been anti-American protests in two dozen countries across the Islamic world. The White House says it has nothing to do with the president's policies.

Let's watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JAY CARNEY, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: This is not a case of protests directed at the United States writ large or at U.S. policy. This is in response to a video that is offensive.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WALLACE: You don't really believe that?

RICE: Chris, absolutely I believe that. In fact, it is the case. We had the evolution of the Arab spring over the last many months. But what sparked the recent violence was the airing on the Internet of a very hateful very offensive video that has offended many people around the world.

Now, our strong view is that there is no excuse for violence. It is absolutely reprehensible and never justified. But, in fact, there have been those in various parts of the world who have reacted with violence. Their governments have increasingly and effectively responded and protected our facilities and condemned the violence and this outrageous response to what is an offensive video. But there is no question that what we have seen in the past, with things like satanic verses, with the cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad, there have been -- such things that have sparked outrage and anger and this has been the proximate cause of what we've seen.

WALLACE: Now, it may have sparked it but you critics say that the outpouring of outrage against the U.S. has everything to do with the U.S. policies, that we are disengaging from that part of the world, that we pulled out of Iraq, we are pulling out of Afghanistan, that Iran is continuing on with its nuclear program. And they say, our critics, that our allies no longer trust us, and our enemies no longer fear us.

RICE: Well, Chris, that's just false. And let's be plain -- our partners and allies have responded effectively and promptly when we have asked them to protect our facilities and our people.

WALLACE: Well, let's -- it took three days in Cairo.

RICE: Well -- and what happened initially in Cairo was not sufficiently robust when President Obama picked up the phone and spoke to the President Morsi, right away things changed. And that's an evidence of our influence and our impact.

And what happened was that the authorities in Egypt have been very robust in protecting our facilities, not just in Cairo, but elsewhere in the country. President Morsi has issued repeated condemnations of the violent response and called for calm. And we have seen the same thing in Yemen, in Libya, in Tunisia and many other parts of the world.

WALLACE: Why are we asking all nongovernmental personnel to leave Sudan and Tunisia?

RICE: Well, first of all, we're not asking all non-governmental personnel.

WALLACE: All non-essential governmental personnel.

RICE: What we have done on a selective basis, where we assess that the security conditions necessitate is to temporarily have family members and non-essential personnel depart the country. That's something we do all over the world when security circumstances warrant. It's short-term, it's temporary and it's prudent.

And we do it, Chris, because we obviously prioritize. The president has been very clear his number one priority is the protection of American personnel and facilities.

WALLACE: So do you think we're turning the corner here?

RICE: Well, Chris, I think, first of all, we have seen in the past outrage and unfortunately violent outrage which is condemnable and never justified. It may, indeed, occur in other circumstances. There is no predicting exactly what the trajectory of this is. Obviously, the last couple of days have been some what better. But we are vigilant and we are of the view that is not an expression of hospitality in the broadest sense towards the United States or U.S. policy. It's approximately a reaction to this video and it's a hateful video that had nothing to do with the United States and which we find disgusting and reprehensible.

WALLACE: You talk about our influence and impact in the region. Our closest ally in the region, Israel, clearly doesn't feel that we are supporting them when it comes to confronting Iran. In fact, this past week, Prime Minister Netanyahu blasted the U.S. for its failure to set the same red lines as he has in terms of stopping Iran's nuclear program.

Let's watch what the prime minister said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER: The world tells Israel, wait, there is still time. And I say, wait for what? Wait until when?

Those in the international community who refuse to put red lines before Iran don't have a moral right to place a red line in Jerusalem.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WALLACE: And when Netanyahu requested a meeting the president, said he was too busy to meet with him.

RICE: Let me address --

WALLACE: Let me ask a question, if I may.

RICE: I thought you had. I'm sorry.

WALLACE: Well, no, I haven't. They'll be a question mark at the end.

Is that how we treat our best friend in the region?

RICE: Well, let me answer that question in three parts. First of all, the overall relationship with Israel. As Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Barak have repeatedly said, the intelligence and security relationship between the United States and Israel at present is unprecedented. It has never been stronger. That's -- those are their words.

So, that's the overall nature of our relationship, very strong -- stronger than ever.

Secondly, with respect to Iran. The United States, President Obama has been absolutely crystal clear that the United States will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon and we will do what it takes to prevent that from happening. All options remain on the table. The president has been very clear about that and that includes the military option. This is not a policy of containment, Chris. As the president has repeatedly said, it's a policy to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. That is the bottom line or as the prime minister

prefers to call it, a red line. That's the bottom line.

Now, we have also said and I think we are in constant communication with Israeli security and intelligence and policy officials that we still think that there is team through economic pressure which is unprecedented as well. Iran's economy is now shrinking by 1 percent a year. Its oil production is down 40 percent. Its currency has plummeted 40 percent just in the last several months as sanctions have gone into fullest effect.

We think there is still time and space for that pressure to yield a result. The bottom line, Chris, is the only way to permanently end Iran's nuclear program is if it decides to give that program up.

RICE: Now, the most solemn decision that a president can ever take is a decision to go to war. And President Obama's view is we will do what it takes it. But before we resort to the use of force, let us be sure we have exhausted other means including sanctions, pressure and diplomacy to ensure that Iran fully and finally gives up its nuclear weapons.

WALLACE: Let's talk in the time we have left about the --

RICE: You asked about the visit --

WALLACE: We have limited time. I'm happy -- if you want to go along, I'm happy to as well.

RICE: I don't want to leave that hanging. That was the third point I wanted to address.

As you know, the president is coming up to the General Assembly in New York at the United Nations. He'll be there in the beginning of the week, Monday and Tuesday. Prime Minister Netanyahu is coming toward the end of the week. Their schedules don't match. There is no opportunity for them to meet in the U.S.

WALLACE: The prime minister would be willing I'm sure to go. And in fact there are suggestions from the Israelis to go to Washington.

RICE: Well, the prime minister hasn't asked for a meeting in Washington, Chris.

(CROSSTALK)

WALLACE: If you watched what he just said, he said that countries that don't set red lines don't have the moral authority to put red lines on Israel. That doesn't sound like a happy ally, Ambassador.

RICE: Well, first of all, we are close partners and friends and always will be. That is an enduring aspect of the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

WALLACE: Why did the president call Prime Minister Netanyahu in the middle of the night and talk for an hour?

RICE: Precisely because they are friends, and when friends need to say something to each other, they pick up the phone and talk and they talked for an hour. It was a good conversation and it's in the nature of our relationship that these two partners speak to one another regularly.

We have no daylight between us on the issue of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. That is our clear bottom line and the president could not be any plainer about it.

WALLACE: Let's talk about the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi this week that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

The top Libyan official says that the attack on Tuesday was, quote, his words "preplanned". Al Qaeda says the operation was revenge for our killing a top Al Qaeda leader.

What do we know?

RICE: Well, first of all, Chris, we are obviously investigating this very closely. The FBI has a lead in this investigation. The information, the best information and the best assessment we have today is that in fact this was not a preplanned, premeditated attack. That what happened initially was that it was a spontaneous reaction to what had just transpired in Cairo as a consequence of the video. People gathered outside the embassy and then it grew very violent and those with extremist ties joined the fray and came with heavy weapons, which unfortunately are quite common in post-revolutionary Libya and that then spun out of control.

But we don't see at this point signs this was a coordinated plan, premeditated attack. Obviously, we will wait for the results of the investigation and we don't want to jump to conclusions before then. But I do think it's important for the American people to know our best current assessment.

WALLACE: All right. And the last question, terror cells in Benghazi had carried out five attacks since April, including one at the same consulate, a bombing at the same consulate in June. Should U.S. security have been tighter at that consulate given the history of terror activity in Benghazi?

RICE: Well, we obviously did have a strong security presence. And, unfortunately, two of the four Americans who died in Benghazi were there to provide security. But it wasn't sufficient in the circumstances to prevent the overrun of the consulate. This is among the things that will be looked at as the investigation unfolds and it's also why --

WALLACE: Is there any feeling that it should have been stronger beforehand?

RICE: It's also why we increased our presence, our security presence in Tripoli in the aftermath of this, as well as in other parts of the world. I can't judge that, Chris. I'm -- we have to see what the assessment reveals.

But, obviously, there was a significant security presence defending our consulate and our other facility in Benghazi and that did not prove sufficient to the moment.

WALLACE: Ambassador Rice, we thank you so much for coming in today and discussing the fast-moving developments in that part of the world. Thanks so much.

RICE: Thank you for having me.

WALLACE: Up next, the head of the House Intelligence Committee, Mike Rogers, with the latest on who was behind that deadly attack on our diplomats.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WALLACE: There are still more questions than answers about the attack in Libya Tuesday that killed U.S. ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

For more on where the investigation stands, we are joined which the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Congressman Mike Rogers, who is in his home state of Michigan.

Well, Congressman, you just heard Ambassador Rice say that her latest indications are that the attack on the consulate in Benghazi was a spontaneous demonstration about that video control that spun out of control. Do you agree with the ambassador?

REP. MIKE ROGERS, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE: I think it's just too early to make that conclusion. There are -- there's analysts in Department of Defense and CIA. There's operatives in both places.

As an FBI agent, I get to look at all of that. I come to a different conclusion. They are only moderately confident it was a spontaneous event because there's huge gaps in what we know.

The way that the attack took place, I have serious questions. It seemed to be a military style coordinated. They had indirect fire, coordinated with direct fire, rocket attacks. They were able to launch two different separate attacks on locations there near the consulate and they repelled a fairly significant Libyan force that came to rescue the embassy.

And then it was on 9/11 and there is other information, classified information, that we have that just makes you stop for a minute and pause.

And as the first thing you learn as a young FBI agent in this, there are coincidences but they're not likely, and there are a lot of coincidences about this event.

Do I believe that people did show than had weapons and joined the effort? Probably I do, but I think to me, when you look at all of the information across both departments, it sure -- I'm just suspect that they could come to that conclusion so assuredly that it was a spontaneous effort given the coordination of it.

WALLACE: There has been talk about an extremist group in Benghazi, Ansar al-Sharia. There has been talk that they were in touch with another group, Al Qaeda in North Africa.

What can you tell us about that?

ROGERS: You know, for months, Al Qaeda in the Maghreb, and that's across northern Africa, which joined in about 2007 I think it was or 2008, they joined Al Qaeda. So they had their own groups across northern Africa.

What they have been looking -- they have been looking because Al Qaeda core, Zawahiri and others, have told them that you want -- you need to start attacking Western targets. So they have been looking for opportunities.

We know, there was an IED at this facility just months ago. So, we know that there is some interest by al Qaeda, strong interest I should say to attack Western targets. We know that Al Qaeda cells in Tunisia have been developing; in Libya have been developing.

We can't say for certain it was an Al Qaeda event. It just has all of the hall marks, Chris, of an Al Qaeda-style event.

WALLACE: Given and you just mentioned the fact there had been an IED attack at this consulate. There have been, as I mentioned to Ambassador Rice, been five terror attacks on the ground against Western interests in Benghazi.

I understand that hindsight is 20/20. But were we as prepared as we should have been given the fact that, yes, there was a history of violence in the region and, yes, it was the 11th anniversary of 9/11 and, yes, the ambassador was at this not very fortified installation in Benghazi.

Should there have been more security there?

ROGERS: Yes, that one is going to be hard to assess. I think we need to walk to that conclusion and not run. One of the things we do ask diplomats in places like Libya to do, and remember, they're volunteers, they're in dangerous neighborhoods. It's a bit of an expeditionary exercise.

We didn't have an embassy there but it was important to have U.S. influence there for hopefully a better outcome that leads to more peaceful events in the future. So, he gave his life in that effort and it was expeditionary. So, we have to look at was the security accurate for what we knew in accordance with what the mission was for the ambassador in Benghazi at that time. I don't think any one today can say yes or no.

I think it's going to take -- and I know the FBI is on the ground. They'll have a great forensic when they are done a great forensic picture for us and then we can make that determination and we're also -- through the committee and through the intelligence services -- scrubbing everything we knew up to that point.

Was there a smoking gun that was missed? I don't think we know that answer either. I have not seen anything that indicates that. But we just don't know.

So, I think all of those pieces have to be put together before we come to the conclusion they didn't have the right security posture there in Benghazi.

WALLACE: Let's talk about the broader picture and wave of anti- American violence across Islamic world this week. You just heard Ambassador Rice say that this has nothing to do with U.S. policy in the Middle East. It is all about that video that insults the Prophet Muhammad.

Congressman, do you believe that?

ROGERS: I don't. I think this is a convenient effort by all of the groups who have other ulterior motives. If you remember even -- I know the ambassador mentioned the Prophet Muhammad cartoons. Well, there were months that went by before violence was incited. They did that through their own information operations. They being Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

So, we know that Al Qaeda is clearly trying to use this to incite violence. So, this is a mechanism to do what they have been trying to do all along. And what we are finding, too, in some of the demonstrators in Egypt is finding that a lot of the folks showing up hadn't even seen the video and this is some of that youth group that really started the change in Egypt and now the day the election happened felt immediately disenfranchised.

You have economic problems, religious problems, cultural differences, tribal differences in Libya -- all of those things are simmering and we have had at least what appears to the folks in the Middle East -- and they can say what they want, I travel there frequently -- the Middle East believes, the countries in the Middle East,

believe that there is a disengagement policy by the United States and that lack of leadership there or at least clarity on what our position is, is causing problems.

If we all decide to rally around the video as the problem we going to make a serious mistake and we are going to make I think diplomatic mistakes as we move forward if we think that is the only reason people are showing up at our embassy and trying to conduct acts of violence.

WALLACE: Well, you're not only the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. You are also a congressman. Let me ask you a political question, not an intelligence question.

Do you think the administration is putting it all on the video because that allows them to duck questions about their policies?

ROGERS: Well, I think we have not had a robust debate in the campaign, in the presidential campaign, about foreign policy. It has been on the back-burner. I mean, the president doesn't talk a lot about it. He hasn't given any speeches really of significance since the 2009 Cairo speech. I do think that, you know, policies overseas have consequences. As a matter of fact, I had a meeting with a senior Middle East intelligence official awhile ago and asked him if I could make you king for a day, what would you ask of the United States. And he stopped for a minute, Chris and he said, I'd like to know -- I would tell you to tell us, what is your Middle East policy? There is no U.S. leadership.

That's a pretty powerful thing to hear when you have all this chaos breaking out now and this was several months ago. But it just shows that those policies do have some consequence.

Now, it's a combination of all of the things I just talked about. It is a very, very difficult problem to solve, but you can't solve it by just trying to step back and letting the cauldron simmer on its own. We have to be a part of it, and it doesn't mean militarily.

It doesn't mean investing billions and billions and billions of dollars. It's a combination of showing strength and showing up. We have to be there. If Israel is --

WALLACE: Let me just interrupt for a second because I want to get to this point.

ROGERS: Yes?

WALLACE: Obviously, relationships were going to be much more complicated after the Arab spring, democracies replaced dictatorships. Islamic groups were allowed to protest in the streets where before they had been crushed. Fairly, given this changing situation, could the administration, the president, have done more to aggressively advance our interests in this changing Middle East?

ROGERS: I'm hot going to say it's not hard. I think these are hard problems. But I do think that it's important that with U.S. leadership, you don't allow these governments to fan the flames of anti-Americanism for their own domestic consumption and do the wink, wink, nudge, nudge which exchange public statements about how we all don't like it. That is not a good policy and is not going to solve the problem.

You need very direct conversations. You need public conversations and I think from the president as well and I hope he does start to engage in a public way in foreign policy that helps set the record straight about the United States position.

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You need very direct conversations. You need public conversations and I think from the president as well and I hope he does start to engage in a public way in foreign policy that helps set the record straight about the United States position.

And again, saying that we have great relationships. Saying everything is wonderful. Saying it's just this one video causing all of this problem, I mean, obviously, the bad guys are going to use this as a reason to do what they have already been doing.

But we need more than that. And that's where I hope -- maybe there's a silver line in this, Chris and we can turn this around.

This shouldn't be about the election. It can't be about the election. It has to be about standing up for our national security issues because it's going to impact us no matter who wins in November and it has -- as we can see -- very serious consequences if we he don't get it right.

WALLACE: Congressman, should the U.S. -- and this is a decision you're going to have to make as a member of Congress -- should the U.S. either cut off aid to countries like Egypt and Libya or at least delay it, conditioned it, on the idea that that you have to show that you are willing to protect U.S. interests, whether it's literally protecting our embassies and diplomats or protecting U.S. -- or advancing U.S. policies?

ROGERS: Well, the first thing is they are obligated to protect our embassy. I wouldn't make that a condition of anything. They need to do that today, without excuse and without delay.

On top of that, I think we can condition aid. You know, I always said, if we just completely pull out of Egypt, is America better off or worse off when it comes to being able to influence a better outcome for peace?

I think it's probably better that we have some influence in Egypt that we can have conversations about, hey, you don't want to provoke Israel, you don't want to continue on with this anti-Americanism. But it has to be conditioned. We shouldn't just give the money and hope for the best. That's not going to work.

I think that if we condition the spending and understand it's OK to ask for something that is in our best interest. We shouldn't apologize for that. We shouldn't say that's offensive to anyone. It's our money. It's taxpayer money and we ought to say here is what we really want to have happen.

And that good influence of the United States, really we prefer commerce over conflict, and if we can continue to promote that around the world, the world is going to be a better place. We have to be there for that to happen.

So, I wouldn't run away from the money right away and say, we're going punish you immediately, but we are going to condition it. And, by the way, if you don't do what you ask us to do, then we're going to take the money away. It's in our best interest to do it.

WALLACE: Congressman Rogers, we want to thank you so much for bringing us up to date on the investigation of that deadly attack in Libya and the whole rest of the situation in the Middle East. Congressman, thank you.

ROGERS: Hey, thanks, Chris. Appreciate it.

WALLACE: Coming up, what happens now to the president's Middle East policy? We'll bring our Sunday group into the conversation when we come right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: I have come here to Cairo to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, one based on mutual interest and mutual respect, and one based upon the truth that America and Islam are not exclusive and need not be in competition.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WALLACE: That was President Obama in Cairo three years ago trying to reset relations between the U.S. and the Islamic world.

And it's time for our Sunday group: Brit Hume, Fox News senior political analyst, Liz Marlantes of the Christian Science Monitor, Bill Kristol from The Weekly Standard, and Jeff Zeleny of the New York Times.

Well, we all remember the Cairo speech, where the president said that the trauma of 9/11 had led us, quote, "to act contrary to our ideals" and promising to change course.

Brit, in the aftermath of what we've seen this week, how is the president's policy as set forth in Cairo looking?

BRIT HUME, FOX NEWS: Well, it looks a little ragged. And I would say that they were remarks that he made even before the Cairo speech that are even more to the point, when said in an interview on November 21, 2007, "I truly believe," he said, "that the day I'm inaugurated not only does the country look at itself differently, but the world looks at America differently," and he immediately launched into a discussion of the Muslim world and his background in Muslim countries, in Indonesia, the fact that his half-sister is Muslim, and he want to say that, in the end, this will ultimately make us safer, something the Bush administration had failed to grasp.

What I would say about that is that I think we're seeing in these events this week the further education of a president who was -- and to some extent remains -- a foreign policy novice, and he is learning that his mere Obamaness and all that goes with it is simply not sufficient to -- to change the fact that the Middle East remains a tinderbox subject to being lit ablaze by even a small match, which I think that movie is at best a small match.

WALLACE: Liz, what happened to the reset in relations between the U.S. and the Islamic world?

LIZ MARLANTES, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: Yeah, well, obviously, it's been -- it's been hard going. And, you know, as Obama himself said in that 2009 speech, it was -- you know, anti-Americanism, tensions between the Middle East and the U.S. have been going on for decades, this was not something that was going to instantly change. He said that.

But I do, you know, kind of agree with Brit that to some extent this is another area where Obama now is probably suffering the consequences of what were probably inflated expectations, that -- you know, going there and listening was somehow going to change things. And, you know, obviously, it's a -- it's a really difficult problem, and it seems like we've got, you know, internal power struggles going on in these countries and not a lot of good options.

WALLACE: You know, Bill, when I talked to Ambassador Rice and discussed what critics are saying about

U.S. foreign policy, which she did not like, I was thinking of you, this notion that the U.S. is in disengagement from the Middle East, that we're in retreat, that our friends and our enemies don't know who we are or how much they can count on what they believe about us.

Obviously, you know, the people who killed the Americans, the people who stormed the embassy, they're responsible, but to what degree do you think Obama's policies have contributed to the events this week?

BILL KRISTOL, THE WEEKLY STANDARD: I think they have contributed, and I -- I really wish it weren't the case, that is, I wish -- and Brit (inaudible) that President Obama has -- educated since his Cairo speech. And I thought, actually, about a year ago, after the surge in Afghanistan, after a -- after the killing of Osama bin Laden, the drone attacks, some tougher stance generally, that perhaps he had learned something from his early pre-election promises and his -- and his speech in the summer of 2009.

But I would say, watching them this week, they are exactly where they were in the Cairo speech. I would -- they have -- the White House press secretary, not just some political hack, the White House press secretary saying from the White House podium that this movie is the -- this trailer of a movie that no one has seen...

WALLACE: That's what U.N. Ambassador Rice said.

KRISTOL: ... and now the U.N. ambassador is saying that -- that it has nothing to do with U.S. policy, nothing to do with U.S. -- what the U.S. stands for. I mean, really, that's the position of the U.S. government, not just the Obama campaign? That's one thing; that's just politics. The U.S. government, the U.S. administration is saying that?

And what is the actual official response? To send an FBI team over -- over to take a look at the situation, except it now turns out, it's being reported, that the FBI team can't land -- can't go to Libya. They pulled them back yesterday because it's not a safe enough situation to do their forensic investigation. It's like a parody of going back to the 1990s. I did think there was bipartisan agreement that that way of addressing national security threats was not effective. It's what we did in the '90s. It didn't work. And now they're right back where they were before 9/11.

WALLACE: Jeff, do you think -- because, I must say, I find it astonishing myself the idea that they would say this is all about the video -- do you think that they really believe that? Or do you think they see that as an easy out and, as I suggested to Mike Rogers, now they don't have to answer questions about policy, because it has nothing to do with policy?

JEFF ZELENY, THE NEW YORK TIMES: I'm not sure if they believe it or not, but they're certainly doubling down on it, so they are leaving us every -- it looks like they believe it. I mean, even privately, even in conversations I have had over the weekend with senior administration officials about this, no one is leaving open the possibility that, hey, that this is just a line we're giving as we look into it further.

So it seems to me that they're opening themselves up to -- or they're leaving themselves very vulnerable here. You know, when -- once more answers are known, I think, as Chairman Rogers was saying, he was giving a very sort of even-handed response, I think, saying, look, we still don't know the answers to a lot of the questions of what happened over there.

So if this administration -- if it turns out a month from now that there was a major intelligence failure, I think this is going to look pretty irresponsible and silly right now, to say that this is all because of a trailer for a

video.

But, look, I was at that speech in Cairo in June of '09. And I'm just struck by how much has changed and how much the -- I mean, it almost looks -- some of those comments sound, I don't know if naive, but quaint, given everything that happened with the Arab Spring and things, and it's certainly not really a relevant -- I mean, I think there's time for a reset of that reset. And we haven't heard the president talk about his policy a lot since then.

WALLACE: Well, and that brings up a very fair question, Brit, which is the Arab Spring. Obviously, things were going to be more complicated after the Arab Spring. You couldn't just call up Hosni Mubarak and say, "Stop the protesters." You've got democracies instead of dictators. You've got Islamic groups who are now free to express themselves and, yes, to protest. How could the president have better managed what was always going to be a messy transition?

HUME: Well, there are a couple of things. One -- two ways to look at this. One is how the president and his team dealt with the actions in the countries that were most affected by the Arab Spring. It seems we have kind of a mixed set of results.

The other question revolves around when militant Islamists are considering how to attack or undermine the United States, it is believed that one of the things that they deeply respect is power and force. They understand it; they recognize it; they fear it; and it worries them.

So if you look at the -- at the -- at the fact that we're -- you know, we're out of Iraq, didn't leave behind a force, we're pulling out of Afghanistan, does that look to them like strength or weakness and a possible opportunity?

If it turns out that Al Qaida was deeply involved in the Benghazi attack, it will be a very significant Al Qaida success and the first that they've had, really, since the heyday of -- of Al Qaida in Iraq. That will represent, it seems to me, a serious sign of failure of the administration's policies throughout the region.

WALLACE: All right. We have to take a break here. But coming up, we've covered the policy, next the politics of national security as it's playing out on the campaign trail.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WALLACE: Still to come, our Power Player of the Week.

(UNKNOWN): It's costing us $200 billion a year to care for people with Alzheimer's.

WALLACE: Now, 5 million Americans have the disease.

(UNKNOWN): That is going to grow to $1 trillion a year by 2050.

WALLACE: Stay tuned. Our panel will be right back.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MITT ROMNEY, REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: The first response to the United States must be outrage at the breach of the sovereignty of our nation, and apology for America's values is never the right course.

OBAMA: Governor Romney seems to have a tendency to shoot first and aim later. And as president, one of the things I've learned is you can't do that.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WALLACE: President Obama and Governor Romney with punch and counterpunch over the U.S. reaction to the violence in the Middle East this week. And we're back now with the panel.

Well, it has certainly been the big political question in Washington this last week: Did Mitt Romney make a mistake attacking the president's policies just five hours after we found out that those four Americans had been slaughtered in Benghazi?

Brit, as you've look back at this over the last few days, now it's played out, what do you think?

HUME: I think what he said was correct, but it was clumsy, and it opened him up to charges that he made a terrible mistake. We had an almost ludicrous overreaction in a lot of the media about it, in which what he did became the big story, rather than what was happening over there, which was not a great moment for our national media, I'm sad to say.

You know, he could have waited. It might have been better if he had. But, look, what he was criticizing there was a statement that -- what we were talking about in the first panel, which is the administration's emphasis on this video, and attacking it, and then reiterating that -- Cairo embassy not only said that, and then it reiterated it later after these events had unfolded. So they doubled down on it.

Now, eventually the White House walked it back and so on. But the next thing you know, the White House is saying the same thing that it's all about the video. So my sense is that he was on the mark. He might have timed it better or said it better.

WALLACE: Liz?

MARLANTES: I think it was a tricky week for both Mitt Romney and President Obama. I mean, when you have a week when Obama is being compared to Jimmy Carter and Mitt Romney is being compared to Richard Nixon, it's not really a week that either campaign is probably going to want to remember.

That said, I think, you know, in the short term, Romney's statements got more attention. And I think the problem that Romney has in this situation is sort of twofold. One was that he did seem political. It seemed like he was acting more in the interests of his campaign than in the interests of the Americans overseas who maybe were in danger at the time.

And -- and, secondly, it's been hard for him to articulate exactly what he would be doing that's -- that's different. I mean, he says he would be shaping events, rather than letting events shape his policy, but he

doesn't say exactly what that means. It means -- is he saying he would not have withdrawn from Iraq, he would rather that we were still there?

You know, the consequences of what he actually seems to be implying are not necessarily policies that would be popular with Americans right now. And so I think it -- it makes it hard. He has this sort of sweeping language about how he wants to project strength, but he won't say exactly what that means, because I think to some extent, if strength means military force, if strength means, you know, spending more money on foreign aid, that's not popular either. I mean, it's -- it's not clear what those actions would be.

WALLACE: Bill, I want to pick up on that, because even if Romney's timing was wrong, as some people think, there's certainly a legitimate debate to have over the president's foreign policy. And we had some of it today with Ambassador Rice and Congressman Rogers. And yet I talked to top officials in the Romney campaign yesterday, and they say they have absolutely no plans for a major foreign policy speech in the next few weeks before the debates. And I guess the question is, why not?

KRISTOL: Well, I'm keeping home alive that they actually will think that they should address the issue that's on the mind of every American now, which is, what is going on over there, and why is it happening, and what would the next president do to address it? It's crazy not to address it. It's -- this is what people want to hear about.

I heard from a congressional candidate, Republican congressional candidate yesterday sent me an e-mail and said he's interested personally in foreign policy, he hasn't talked much -- so much about it, and his audiences haven't asked him much about it over the last 14 months. He said suddenly, last week, he didn't even begin to raise it, particularly on Wednesday or Thursday, but suddenly all the questions were about it.

People -- the next president is going to have to deal with this. What are you going to do? He needs to address it.

Brit's right. He was a little clumsy at first, but it's better to be clumsy and correct than timid and silent. And I really hope, as someone who hopes Romney wins, I hope he is not timid and silent over the next couple of weeks and that he does what Liz said and lays out his foreign policy agenda.

And they're very spooked. I talked with some Romney people, too. Got to be very careful, though. War is unpopular. Afghanistan is unpopular. Iraq, horrible memories. Which convention spoke more about war? Which convention didn't -- wasn't timid to say the word "Afghanistan"? It was the Democratic convention. And they got a bounce. And the Republicans, who shied away totally from foreign policy, didn't get a bounce.

So maybe the American public's a little more mature and serious than these campaign strategists think, and maybe they would actually like to hear what the next president would do about this crisis.

WALLACE: Jeff, you know, I think it'd be fair to say there's a growing sense among political observers, as we see these polls, that Romney is losing right now, not that he's lost, not that it's over, but that he's losing ground. And I think the question is, after this selection now of Paul Ryan, which was seen as a pretty bold choice, they seem to have gone back into something of a crouch and are not campaigning on a bold agenda as a candidate of reform. What are they thinking at Romney headquarters in Boston?

ZELENY: I think they are frustrated by the sort of growing storyline that he may be losing. But I think losing is the wrong way to look at it. He's not losing or he hasn't lost. He probably has failed to take advantage of

this moment of the, really, three weeks since naming the vice presidential candidate and into his convention.

I mean, the jobs report number a week ago on Friday -- seems like a long time ago -- was something that his campaign thought would reset things. It really didn't. So they have had a hard time sort of, I think, resetting the race and gaining ground, but I think it's absurd to say that he has lost or is losing.

I mean, the CBS-New York Times poll last week showed among likely voters it is still a 3-point contest, within the margin of error. So that is with even what Romney's own advisers will concede that they had not the smoothest of weeks. So this is still an even race. This is still anything could happen.

But out in battleground states across the country, the Obama campaign seems to be performing a little bit better. So...

WALLACE: But why this reluctance...

ZELENY: I hear the same thing from...

(CROSSTALK)

WALLACE: Why this reluctance to give a major foreign policy speech? Why the reluctance, when there's all this criticism that, you know, he favors -- his policies favor the rich over the middle class, why not give a major speech and explain -- and -- and you can hear people clamoring for it -- what are some of the things he would do in tax reform that would -- that would hurt the rich?

ZELENY: The overarching thought in the Romney campaign is still that this election is about President Obama and that they can win this election by this growing sentiment that it's time to fire President Obama.

Now, I'm not sure that that's right. I mean, they have to give -- it seems a lot of Republicans are hungering for more of a reason to hire Governor Romney. I'm not convinced that they won't give some kind of a big speech. I don't know if it'll be a foreign policy speech, but they have -- see the same information that everyone here sees and talks about. I think they know that they have to kick things up a little bit.

HUME: Even if this ends up being, in effect, a referendum on the president and his record, the challenger still has something that must be done, and that is to present himself as a plausible and acceptable presidential alternative.

Now, Romney's got the presidential bearing down. He's fine on that. He presented himself at his convention as a nice guy and a normal person with a great family. He's got that down.

What he didn't do was dwell at length on the economic policies that he would put in place. And a big piece of being a plausible president is being knowledgeable and have a deep sense of the world and the United States' place in it and be able to differentiate the policies you'd pursue from the other guy. And he hasn't done that. So, you know, he may get the referendum, but if he hasn't done his part and stepped up as a plausible alternative, he might lose anyway.

WALLACE: Liz?

MARLANTES: Yeah, I mean, I -- I think it has become a difficult storyline for Romney that he's losing. We've had a lot of stories in the last week or two about the differences in the polls, and that is a difficult

position for a candidate to get into, because the entire media lens starts to be through that lens of he's the losing candidate right now. And I think even the reaction this week to his statement, you know, was seen as an act of desperation, well, that's the way you cover a candidate who's losing. So that is something that I think the Romney campaign is going to have to do something to turn around, because right now it's not helping them.

WALLACE: And, Bill, we got less than a minute left. I guess what confuses me is when he picked Ryan as his running mate, I thought, well, that's a statement that he's going to come forward with a bold, affirmative, positive agenda, he's going to be the candidate of reform. And yet he has, after naming him and getting a little bump in the polls and people getting excited, he hasn't capitalized on that.

KRISTOL: Maybe they'll learn the lesson from the fact that, from the day he named, August 11th, until the Republican convention, Romney gained in the polls. He narrowed a 4.5 point gap to 1 point in the RealClearPolitics average. It's back up to 3 points when they've gone back to the pre-Ryan campaign. Maybe they should follow up on the consequences of the Ryan pick, which are positive.

WALLACE: Thank you, panel. See you next week. Don't forget to check out Panel Plus, where our group picks right up with this discussion on our website, foxnewssunday.com. We'll post the video before noon Eastern time, and make sure to follow us on Twitter @foxnewssunday.

Up next, our power players of the week.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WALLACE: They are one of Washington's power couples. He was a top executive at AOL and CBS; she used to write sitcoms. Now they're taking on the fight of their lives. And they're our Power Players of the Week.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

GEORGE VRADENBURG, US AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S: It's the only disease in the top 10 killers that has no means of prevention, cure or treatment.

WALLACE (voice-over): George Vradenburg is talking about Alzheimer's, the disease that robs people of their memory, then mind, and eventually kills them. He and his wife of 43 years, Trish, have donated millions of dollars to launch an organization called Us Against Alzheimer's.

(on-screen): What is the goal of Us Against Alzheimer's?

G. VRADENBURG: A means of prevention and treatment by the year 2020.

WALLACE: But is there any reason to believe that's possible over the next eight years?

G. VRADENBURG: Yes, the answer is 2020's feasible. Is it -- is it a guarantee, a lock? No. Otherwise, why should we be in the game?

WALLACE (voice-over): What makes this group different is it is part philanthropy that invests in research, but it's also a political action committee, contributing to candidates who back their fight.

This week, the Vradenburgs were on Capitol Hill meeting with Congressman Jim Moran.

G. VRADENBURG: Right now, cancer is allocated about $6 billion a year, and we're making progress. HIV-AIDS, $3 billion a year. Alzheimer's, $450 million a year.

WALLACE: And Vradenburg says, if we don't find a treatment or cure for Alzheimer's, it will bankrupt the nation. Now, 5 million Americans have the disease, but with aging baby boomers, that will double in 30 years.

G. VRADENBURG: It's costing us $200 billion a year to care for people with Alzheimer's; 70 percent of that comes from Medicare and Medicaid. That is going to grow to $1 trillion a year by 2050.

WALLACE: The Vradenburgs' fight against Alzheimer's is personal. Trisha's mother, who was a hard-charging New Jersey Democrat, died of the disease 20 years ago.

TRISH VRADENBURG, US AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S: We saw her just go downhill from a towering human being to a person who didn't know us.

WALLACE (on-screen): Tough question: Do you worry that you're going to get it?

T. VRADENBURG: Those days where I can't find my keys, I -- yeah, I worry.

WALLACE: Is it true you have not been tested?

T. VRADENBURG: Until I know that there's a possibility of having some way to diminish or stop or arrest Alzheimer's, I have no need to know if I have a death sentence or not.

WALLACE: Honestly, how much of this crusade is the fact that you want to find a cure or a treatment?

G. VRADENBURG: Of course. And me. Whether I'm the caregiver or the victim, one out of two over 85 have this disease.

WALLACE (voice-over): And so George and Trish Vradenburg keep sounding the alarm, keep trying to build a political movement against a killer they say is coming for them and so many of us. G. VRADENBURG: With Alzheimer's, it is a cruel disease that's going to take tens of millions of lives, and we can't get ourselves together, so that's frustrating.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WALLACE: If you want to learn more about the Vradenburgs' cause, check out their website, usagainstalzheimers.org.

And that's it for today. Have a great week. And we'll see you next "Fox News Sunday."

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September 16: Benjamin Netanyahu, Susan Rice, Keith Ellison, Peter King, Bob Woodward, Jeffrey Goldberg

Recommend 32 g+1 1 25

MR. DAVID GREGORY: This morning, a special hour of MEET THE PRESS...

September 1 Benjamin Netanyahu, Susan Rice, Keith Ellison, Peter King, B Jeffrey Goldberg, Andrea Mitchell

updated 9/16/2012 1:08:45 PM ET

MR. DAVID GREGORY: This morning, a special hour of MEET THE PRESS. Turmoil in the Middle East creates a flashpoint on the campaign trail. Set off by an American anti-Islamic video, rage against the U.S. sweeps the Arab world. And an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya kills ambassador Chris Stephens and three others.

(Videotape)

HILLARY CLINTON: The people of Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Tunisia did not trade the tyranny of a dictator for the tyranny of a mob.

(End videotape)

GREGORY: But in this highly-charged campaign environment new questions about how the Obama administration should respond enter the political debate.

(Videotape)

MR. MITT ROMNEY: The administration was wrong to stand by statements sympathizing with those who had breached our embassy in Egypt instead of condemning their actions.

(End videotape)

GREGORY: This morning we'll talk to a key member of the president's foreign policy team--the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice.

Also, this morning, an exclusive network interview with a key player in the Middle East--the prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu. Has relations between his country and the U.S. have at a new low over the looming nuclear threat from Iran?

(Videotape)

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU: Those in the international community that refuse to put red lines before Iran don't have a moral right to place a red light before Israel.

(End videotape)

GREGORY: Sorting out U.S. options in the Middle East, consequences for the region, and the political impact in November--our political roundtable. Joining us, the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Congress, Democratic Representative from Minnesota Keith Ellison; the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, New York Republican congressman Peter King; Author of the new book, *The Price of Politics*, *The Washington Post*'s Bob Woodward; the *Atlantic's* Jeffrey Goldberg; and NBC's chief foreign affairs correspondent Andrea Mitchell.

Exhibit 36

Announcer: From NBC News in Washington, MEET THE PRESS with David Gregory.

GREGORY: And good morning. Relative calm this morning in the Middle East after several days of intense anti-American protests raged across many parts of the Islamic world. But word this morning that the Obama administration has ordered the evacuation of all but emergency personnel from diplomatic missions in Tunisia and Sudan. And defense secretary Leon Panetta saying this morning, the Pentagon has deployed forces to several areas in an increased effort to protect U.S. personnel and property from the potential of violent protests, the latest consequences, of course, of this troubling unrest. Joining me now for the very latest, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice. Ambassador Rice, welcome back to MEET THE PRESS.

MS. SUSAN RICE (U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations): Thank you, good to be here.

GREGORY: The images as you well know are jarring to Americans watching all of this play out this week, and we'll share the map of all of this turmoil with our viewers to show the scale of it across not just the Arab world, but the entire Islamic world and flashpoints as well. In Egypt, of course, the protests outside the U.S. embassy there that Egyptian officials were slow to put down. This weekend in Pakistan, protests as well there. More anti-American rage. Also protests against the drone strikes. In Yemen, you also had arrests and some deaths outside of our U.S. embassy there. How much longer can Americans expect to see these troubling images and these protests go forward?

MS. RICE: Well, David, we can't predict with any certainty. But let's remember what has transpired over the last several days. This is a response to a hateful and offensive video that was widely disseminated throughout the Arab and Muslim world. Obviously, our view is that there is absolutely no excuse for violence and that-- what has happened is condemnable, but this is a-- a spontaneous reaction to a video, and it's not dissimilar but, perhaps, on a slightly larger scale than what we have seen in the past with *The Satanic Verses* with the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. Now, the United States has made very clear and the president has been very plain that our top priority is the protection of American personnel in our facilities and bringing to justice those who...

GREGORY: All right.

MS. RICE: ...attacked our facility in Benghazi.

GREGORY: Well, let's talk-- talk about-- well, you talked about this as spontaneous. Can you say definitively that the attacks on-- on our consulate in Libya that killed ambassador Stevens and others there security personnel, that was spontaneous, was it a planned attack? Was there a terrorist element to it?

MS. RICE: Well, let us-- let me tell you the-- the best information we have at present. First of all, there's an FBI investigation which is ongoing. And we look to that investigation to give us the definitive word as to what transpired. But putting together the best information that we have available to us today our current assessment is that what happened in Benghazi was in fact initially a spontaneous reaction to what had just transpired hours before in Cairo, almost a copycat of-- of the demonstrations against our facility in Cairo, which were prompted, of course, by the video. What we think then transpired in Benghazi is that opportunistic extremist elements came to the consulate as this was unfolding. They came with heavy weapons which unfortunately are readily available in post revolutionary Libya. And it escalated into a much more violent episode. Obviously, that's-- that's our best judgment now. We'll await the results of the investigation. And the president has been very clear--we'll work with the Libyan authorities to bring those responsible to justice.

GREGORY: Was there a failure here that this administration is responsible for, whether it's an intelligence failure, a failure to see this coming, or a failure to adequately protect U.S. embassies and installations from a spontaneous kind of reaction like this?

MS. RICE: David, I don't think so. First of all we had no actionable intelligence to suggest that-- that any attack on our facility in Benghazi was imminent. In Cairo, we did have indications that there was the risk that the video might spark some-- some protests and our embassy, in fact, acted accordingly, and had called upon the Egyptian authorities to-- to reinforce our facility. What we have seen as-- with respect to the security response, obviously we had security personnel in Benghazi, a-- a significant number, and tragically, among those four that were killed were two of our security personnel. But what happened, obviously, overwhelmed the security we had in place which is why the president ordered additional reinforcements to Tripoli and-- and why elsewhere in the world we have been working with governments to ensure they take up their obligations to protect us and we reinforce where necessary.

GREGORY: The president and the secretary of state have talked about a mob mentality. That's my words, not their words, but they talked about

the-- the tyranny of mobs operating in this part of the world. Here's the reality, if you look at foreign aid--U.S. direct foreign aid to the two countries involved here, in Libya and Egypt, this is what you'd see: two hundred million since 2011 to Libya, over a billion a year to Egypt and yet Americans are seeing these kinds of protests and attacks on our own diplomats. Would-- what do you say to members of congress who are now weighing whether to suspend our aid to these countries if this is the response that America gets?

MS. RICE: Well, first of all, David, let's put this in perspective. As I said, this is a response to a-- a very offensive video. It's not the first time that American facilities have come under attack in the Middle East, going back to 1982 in-- in Beirut, going back to the Khobar Towers in-- in Saudi Arabia, or even the attack on our embassy in 2008 in Yemen.

GREGORY: Or Iran in 1979.

MS. RICE: This has-- this has happened in the past, but there-- and so I don't think that-- that we should misunderstand what this is. The reason we provide aid in Egypt and in Libya is because it serves American interests because the relationships...

GREGORY: But-- but our Americans are not being served if this is the response.

MS. RICE: It serves our interests to have Egypt willing and able to-- to maintain its peace treaty with Israel, it servers our interest for Egypt to continue to be a strong partner. Now, let's be clear, the government, once President Obama called President Morsi, immediately in Egypt the security forces came out and have provided very significant protection. Same in Tunisia, same in Libya, same in Yemen. And all of these leaders have very forcefully conveyed their condemnation of what has transpired.

GREGORY: But there were conflicting messages from the Morsi government. In Arabic they encourage protests, in English they said stop the protests. This from an ally that we give over a billion dollars?

MS. RICE: What has happened in fact is that the Egyptian government has come out and protected our facilities. Our embassy is open today, things are calm. And Morsi has repeatedly been clear in his condemnation of-- of what has occurred. We-- we are in these partnerships, David, over the long-term. We think that-- that-- despite this very bumpy path we're on and the very disturbing images we've seen, it's in the United States fundamental interest that people have the ability to choose their own governments, that the governments be democratic and free. That's in our long-term best interest.

GREGORY: You know that this...

MS. RICE: We need to reinforce that with our assistance.

GREGORY: We are in the middle of a heated presidential campaign, there are different foreign policy visions. That's why we wanted to dedicate the hour to this today to really understand these different views. Mitt Romney spoke out this week, he criticized the administration, talked about whether the United States was apologizing for some of the initial response to this. These were his comments this week.

(Videotape; Wednesday)

MR. MITT ROMNEY: The administration was wrong to stand by a statement sympathizing with those who had breached our embassy in Egypt instead of condemning their actions. I think it's a-- a-- a terrible course to-- for America to-- to stand in apology for our values.

(End videotape)

GREGORY: Our embassies did not stand up for speech-- free speech in this initial response to this violence. And the Republican charge is that it's weakness on the part of this administration that invites this kind of chaos, that the administration has not been tough enough on radical extremists that are beginning to take root in these countries. How do you respond to that?

MS. RICE: First of all, I think the American people and certainly our diplomats and-- and development experts who are putting their lives on the line around the world every day expect from our leadership unity in times of challenge and strong, steady, steadfast leadership of the sort that President Obama has been providing. With respect to this, I think, vacuous charge of weakness, let's-- lets recall, I think, the American people fully understand that this is an administration led by a president who said when he ran for office that he would take the fight to al Qaeda. We have decimated al Qaeda. Osama bin Laden is dead. He said we would end the war responsibly in Iraq. We've done that. He has restored relationships

around the world. I spend every day up at the United Nations where I have to interact with 192 other countries. I know how well the United States is viewed. I know that our standing is much improved and it's translated into important support for strong American positions, for example with sanctions against Iran.

GREGORY: Was it inappropriate for Governor Romney to level the criticism he leveled?

MS. RICE: I'm not going to get into politics, David. That's not my role in this job. But I think the American people welcome and appreciate strong, steady, unified leadership, bipartisan in times of challenge. And for those men and women in our diplomatic service, including those we tragically lost, they look to our leadership to be unified and responsible.

GREGORY: Let's talk about another area where the administration is on the defensive in terms of leadership in the world, and that is the nuclear threat from Iran. Another area of tension between the United States and Israel. In just a couple of minutes we will show our interview with the prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu. And our viewers will see that. One aspect is how close Iran is getting to becoming a nuclear power. I asked him about that. I want to show you a piece of the interview and get your reaction to it.

(Videotape)

PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU (Prime Minister of Israel): I can tell you, David, that Iran has been placed with some clear red lines on a few matters, and they have avoided crossing them. So I think that as they get closer and closer and closer to the achievement of the weapons-grade material, and they're very close, they're six months away from being about 90 percent of having the enriched uranium for an atom bomb, I think that you have to place that red line before them now, before it's-- it's too late.

GREGORY: As the prime minister of Israel, has Iran crossed your red line?

MR. NETANYAHU: Well, the way I would say it, David, is they are in the red zone. You know, they are in the last 20 yards. And you can't let them cross that goal line. You can't let them score a touchdown, because that would have unbelievable consequences, grievous consequences, for the peace and security of us all-- of the world really.

(End videotape)

GREGORY: What is President Obama's line in the sand, the point at which he says to Iran don't cross this with your nuclear program or there's going to be a military consequence?

MS. RICE: David, the president has been very, very clear. Our bottom line, if you want to call it a red line, president's bottom line has been that Iran will not acquire a nuclear weapon and we will take no option off the table to ensure that it does not acquire a nuclear weapon, including the military option.

GREGORY: The prime minister says...

MS. RICE: But...

GREGORY: ...they are acquiring.

MS. RICE: ...he's talking about a-- a red zone which is a new concept...

GREGORY: No, no, but he's talking about how close they are to actually becoming a nuclear power--having to develop a capacity to become a nuclear power.

MS. RICE: They're not there yet. They are not there yet. And our assessment is, and-- and we share this regularly with our Israeli counterparts in the intelligence and defense community, that there is time and space for the pressure we are mounting, which is unprecedented in terms of sanctions, to still yield results. This is not imminent. The window is not infinite, but let's be clear--the sanctions that-- that are now in place reached their high point in July. The-- the Iranian economy is suffering. It's shrinking for the first time. Negative one percent growth. The amount of production of Iranian oil has dropped 40 percent over the last several months. Their currency has plummeted 40 percent over the last several months. This pressure is even to use the Iranian's own words crippling.

GREGORY: But can you say...

MS. RICE: And we think...

GREGORY: ...that President Obama's strategy to keep Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon almost at the end of his first term is succeeding or failing?

MS. RICE: David, what is clear is Iran does not have a nuclear weapon. And that Iran is more isolated than ever internationally. The economic pressure it is facing is much greater than ever. When President Obama came to office the international community was divided about Iran. And Iran was internally very united. The exact opposite is the case today. The international community is united. We just had another strong resolution out of the IAEA Board of Governors. And the internal dynamics in Iran are-- are fracturing and the leadership is divided. We are committed and President Obama is committed to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. It is not a policy of containment. But, David, the most difficult and profound decision that any president has to make is the decision to go to war. And this president is committed to exhausting pressure, economic pressure, and diplomacy while there is-- is still time before making a decision of such consequence.

GREGORY: Ambassador Rice, the debate continues. Thank you very much...

MS. RICE: Thank you.

GREGORY: ...for your views this morning.

Now to this looming nuclear threat from Iran from the Israeli perspective. There were new tensions between the Obama administration in Israel this week. Earlier, I spoke with the prime minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu about where things stand and whether he is trying to influence the outcome of our presidential campaign.

Prime Minister, welcome back to MEET THE PRESS.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Thank you. Good to be with you, David.

GREGORY: I want to talk specifically before we get to the questions of what's happening more broadly in the Middle East and the turmoil there this week about the threat from Iran. You spoke about that this week, and this question of whether Israel has to take matters into its own hands. And you launched pretty pointed criticism at the United States. I want to play a portion of what you said.

(Videotape; Monday)

PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU: The world tells Israel, wait. There's still time. And I say, wait for what? Wait until when? Those in the international community who refuse to put red lines before Iran don't have a moral right to place a red light before Israel.

(End videotape)

GREGORY: Prime Minister, I want to understand very clearly what your views are. Is it your view that the Obama administration is either unwilling or unable to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Now first of all, President Obama and the U.S. administration have repeatedly said that Israel has the right to act by itself against any threat to defend itself. And I think that that remains our position. And for me, the issue is-- as the prime minister of a country that is threatened with annihilation by a regime that is racing a brutal regime in Tehran that is racing to develop nuclear bombs for that and, obviously, we-- we cannot delegate the job of stopping Iran if all else fails to someone else. That was the main point that I was saying there. It was directed at the general international community. A lot of leaders calling me telling me don't do it, it's not necessary. You know, the danger of acting is much greater than not acting. And I always say the danger of not acting in time is much greater because Iran with nuclear weapons would mean that the kind of fanaticism that you see storming your embassies would have a nuclear weapon. Don't let these fanatics have nuclear weapons.

GREGORY: But Prime Minister, let's be clear. You were upset with this administration. The Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had said in an interview that there were no deadlines by this administration in terms of what Iran should or shouldn't do by a date certain. That's what led to

those remarks. And so my question still stands. Is it your view that this administration is either unwilling or unable to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: No. President Obama has said that he's determined to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons and I appreciate that and I respect that. I think implicit in that is that if you're determined to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons, it means you'll act before they get nuclear weapons. I just think that it's important to communicate to Iran that there is a line that they won't cross. I think a red line in this case works to reduce the chances of the need for military action because once the Iranians understand that there's no-- there's a line that they can't cross, they are not likely to cross it, you know, when President Kennedy set a red line in the Cuban missile crisis, he was criticized. But it turned out it didn't bring war, it actually pushed war back and probably purchased decades of peace with the Soviet Union. Conversely, when there was no American red line set before the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and maybe that war could have been avoided. And I can tell you David that Iran has been placed with some clear red lines on a few matters and they have avoided crossing them. So I think that as they get closer and closer and closer to the achievement of weapons grade material, and they are very close, they are six months away from being about ninety percent of having the enriched uranium for an atom bomb, I think that you have to place that red line before them now before it's-- it's too late. That was the point that I was making.

GREGORY: As a prime minister of Israel, has Iran crossed your red line?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Well, the way I would say it David is they are in the red zone. You know, they are in the last 20 yards. And you can't let them cross that goal line. You can't let them score a touchdown because that would have unbelievable consequences, grievous consequences, for the peace and security of us all-- of the world really.

GREGORY: That seems to be a newer development from your way of thinking that they are now in a red zone. And to use-- to use the sports metaphor, you won't let them cross the-- the goal line. Is Israel closer to taking action into its own hands?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: We always reserve the right to act. But I think that if we are able to coordinate together a common position, we increase the chances that neither one of us will have to act. Iran is very cognizant of the fact of its degrees of freedom and as the IAEA report says not only have they not stopped, they have actually rushed forward-- they're rushing forward with their enrichment program. And I think it's very important to make it clear to them that they can't just proceed with impunity.

GREGORY: Your criticism, your calling on President Obama to set this red line, comes in the middle of a heated presidential campaign. You understand the American political system very well. You're very sophisticated in that regard. In your view, would Governor Mitt Romney as President Romney make Israel safer? Would he take a harder line against Iran than President Obama in your judgment?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: God, I'm-- I'm not going to be drawn into the American election. And-- and what's guiding my statements are-- is not the American political calendar but the Iranian nuclear calendar. They're just-- you know, if they stop spinning the centrifuges for-- and took timeout for the American elections, I wouldn't have to talk. And I wouldn't have to raise this issue. But as the prime minister of Israel, knowing that this country committed to our destruction is getting closer to the goal of having weapons of mass destruction then I speak out. And it's got-- it's really not a partisan political issue. And I think it's important for anyone who is the president of the United States to be in that position of preventing Iran from having this nuclear weapons-- nuclear weapons capability. And I'm talking to the president. I just talked to him the other day. We are in close consultations. We're trying to prevent that. It's really not a partisan issue. It's a policy issue not a political issue.

GREGORY: Well, but it may not be a partisan issue. You have known Mitt Romney a long time. The reality is-- tell me if you disagree that Governor Romney just in an interview this week said that his position is very much the same as President Obama. They are both committed to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Not just as an impartial observer, as the prime minister of Israel, do you agree with that that both the president and his challenger have the same view with regard to preventing Iran from going nuclear?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: I have no doubt that they are equally committed to preventing that. It's a-- it's a vital American interest. It's a-- it's an existential interest on my case so, this isn't the issue. We are united on this across the board.

GREGORY: Why can't Iran be contained just as the Soviet Union was? There are those in your country and in the United States who believe that a containment strategy would actually work?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: I think Iran is very different. They put their zealotry above their survival. They have suicide bombers all over

the place. I wouldn't rely on their rationality, you know, you-- since the advent of nuclear weapons, you had countries that had access to nuclear weapons who always made a careful calculation of cost and benefit. But Iran is guided by a leadership with an unbelievable fanaticism. It's the same fanaticism that you see storming your embassies today. You want these fanatics to have nuclear weapons? I mean, I've heard some people suggest, David, I actually I read this in the American press. They said, well, you know, if you take action, that's-- that's a lot worse than having Iran with nuclear weapons. Some have even said that Iran with nuclear weapons would stabilize the Middle East-- stabilize the Middle East. I-- I think the people who say this have set a new standard for human stupidity. We have to stop them. Don't rely on containment. That is not the American policy. It would be wrong. It would be a grave, grave mistake. Don't let these fanatics have nuclear weapons. It's terrible for Israel and it's terrible for America. It's terrible for the world.

GREGORY: Prime Minister, one more question on the American election. You have been accused this week by pundits in this country of trying to interfere in this presidential election, siding with Governor Mitt Romney. Now, Governor Romney for a year, and he said it in his convention speech, has said, quote, "President Obama has thrown allies like Israel under the bus." Do you agree or disagree with Governor Romney's charge? It's a serious charge.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Well, you're-- you're trying to get me into the-- into the American election and I'm not going to do that. The relationship between Israel and the United States is a bond of-- it's just a very powerful bond. It was, it is, and will be and will continue to be. And I-- I can tell you there's no one-- there's no leader in the world who's more appreciative than me of the strength of this alliance. It's very strong. There's no one in Israel who appreciates more than me the importance of American support for Israel. It's not a partisan issue. In fact, we cherish the bipartisan support of Democrats and Republicans alike. This is critical for us.

GREGORY: But prime minister, with respect, if I may just interrupt you...

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: And-- and I think it's critical that we take...

GREGORY: I think this is a very important point because you say you don't want to interfere in the election. There are tens of millions of Americans who are watching that speech, who hear that rhetoric, who hear that charge, who may not understand the complexities of this issue. You are the leader of the Jewish people. You say this is not a partisan issue. You get billions of dollars from direct foreign investment from this country, hundreds of millions of dollars from Americans, Jews and Christians alike from this country. It seems to me for you to remain silent on whether this administration has thrown Israel under the bus is tantamount to agreeing with the sentiment. So where do you come down on that specific charge against President Obama?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Now, there you go again, David, you're trying to draw me into something that-- that is simply not-- not the case and it's not my position. My position is that we-- we have strong cooperation. We'll continue to cooperate. We're the best of allies. And Israel is the one reliable ally of the United States in the Middle East...

GREGORY: So President Obama has not thrown Israel under the bus?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: ...if that wasn't understood until yesterday. So it's-- it's-- there's-- there's no bus, and we're not going to get into that discussion, except to say one thing. We have a strong alliance and we're going to continue to have a strong alliance. I think the important question is where does the-- the only bus that is really important is the Iranian nuclear bus. That's the one that we have to-- to derail. And that's my interest. That's my-- my only interest.

GREGORY: Final question on the broader Middle East and what we're seeing this week. This anti-American and indeed anti-Israeli rage throughout the Middle East attacking our embassy, killing a United States ambassador as you well know. What has been unleashed and what can United States and its allies specifically do to contain it?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Well, look, I-- I-- I think people focus on the spark. The spark of reprehensible and irresponsible film is a-- is a spark, but it's not-- it doesn't explain anything. I mean, it doesn't explain 9/11. It doesn't explain the decades of animosity and the grievances that go back centuries. In fact, there's a tinderbox of hatred here from a virulent strain of Islam that takes moderate Muslims and Arabs and attacks them first but seeks to deprive all of us of the basic-- the basic values that we have. They're against the human rights. They're against the rights of women. They're against freedom of religion. They're against freedom of speech and freedom of expression. They're against all the things that we value. They're against tolerance. They're against-- they're against pluralism, and they're against freedom. And they're-- they're-- they view not your policies but you, the very existence of United States and its values, and by extension Israel. They view that as an intolerable crime. And we

have to understand that. We have to deal with it. And we have to be the close support because in-- in this vast expanse of land, you can understand why they are so-- so antagonistic to us because for them we are you and you are us. And at least on this point they're right.

GREGORY: Finally, prime minister, did you feel snubbed not getting a face-to-face meeting with President Obama in New York during the upcoming U.N. meetings? Would you like to have that face-to-face encounter? Would it be helpful to your relationship at this point?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: You know, I'm always pleased and-- and happy to have a conversation with President Obama. He's-- I think he's met me more than any other leader in the world and I-- I appreciate that. We've had our discussions. Our-- our schedules on this visit didn't work out. I come to New York and he leaves New York. But we continue in close consultations. We have urgent business, Israel and America, to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons. I think it's important to delineate a red line for Iran so we're not faced with a conundrum of what to do if we don't place a red line and they just proceed to the bomb.

GREGORY: Prime minister, thank you very much for your time.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Thank you, to all of you.

GREGORY: Coming up next, our political roundtable on the political impact of this turmoil in the Middle East. Is it a case of weakness on the part of this administration? Did Governor Romney go too far in that criticism? Our political roundtable is here and we'll weigh in. Democratic congressman from Minnesota, Keith Ellison; Chair of the Homeland Security Committee, Congressman Peter King of New York; *The Washington Post's*, Bob Woodward; Jeffrey Goldberg of *The Atlantic* magazine; and our own Andrea Mitchell.

(Announcements)

GREGORY: Coming up our political roundtable. Was this week that 3:00 AM phone call moment for Romney? What is his response to the turmoil in the Middle East say about his readiness to be president? Our roundtable weighs in up next after this brief break.

(Announcements)

GREGORY: And we're back with our political roundtable. Joining me national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, a journalist who'd spent his career covering the Middle East, Jeff Goldberg; NBC's chief foreign affairs correspondent Andrea Mitchell; associate editor for *The Washington Post* and author of the new groundbreaking book *The Price of Politics*, Bob Woodward; Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Republican Congressman Peter King of New York; and the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Congress, Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison. Welcome to all of you. These are very difficult times for this country and for the Middle East. There's a question I think that Americans have of what is going on here. Why is this happening? And it's happening, Jeff Goldberg, in a heated presidential debate. And so you have accusations and response, and we've seen that play out already in the course of this hour. Liz Cheney, the daughter of the former vice president, launched a very serious attack that indeed Governor Romney amplified on. And she wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*--I want to show it to our viewers and get discussion about it here. In too many parts of the world, she writes, America is no longer viewed as a reliable ally or an enemy to be feared... Nor do our adversaries any longer fear us. Ask the mobs in Cairo who attacked our embassy or the Libyan mobs who killed our diplomats at the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. Ask the Iranians who make unhindered daily progress towards obtaining a nuclear weapon.

MR. JEFF GOLDBERG (National Correspondent, *The Atlantic*): Well, I mean, a couple of quick points. The first is, you know, to be fair, 9/11 happened during the Bush administration, the Bush-Cheney administration. So it's not as if people-- Muslim radicals feared the United States during that period, not when they were killing thousands of American troops in Iraq certainly. I mean, the larger point is that-- that, you know, there's a tendency, especially seven weeks out from an election, to turn this in-- turn everything that happens in the world into an election issue. There are some very, very deep and troubling things going on in-- in the Middle East that have very little to do with what a president does or doesn't do. I mean, let's-- let's be fair about this. You-- you-- you have a complete upheaval in the Middle East. You don't have American policymakers being able to shape the way Muslims think about the world, about modernity, about the United States. So-- so to blame the president for-- for an attack on-- on these embassies, I think, is a bit much.

GREGORY: Congressman...

REP. PETER KING (R-NY/Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security): Yeah.

GREGORY: ...as a Republican here, supporter of Governor Romney...

REP. KING: Yes.

GREGORY: ...is this American weakness that brought this on? Is that the Republican view? Is that what the view of President Romney would be?

REP. KING: Well, my view is it was a large component of it. There has been-- this president's policy-- President Obama's policy has been confusing. It's been apologetic, and it's been misguided. From the day he started his apology tour back in 2009 where he was, no matter what people say, apologizing for America, somehow suggesting that we've been anti-Islam until he became the president throughout-- the fact that-- even talking about Iraq, the way he took our troops out of Iraq without even getting the status of forces agreement. He was given a glide path in Iraq. And yet he pulled the troops out, brags about the fact that troops are out, gives a definite date for getting out in Afghanistan. What he is doing by that is telling our allies they can't trust us and he's also telling unaligned that the U.S. is not a reliable ally. And the fact that you would have the prime minister of Israel on this show explaining his relationship with the president of the United States at a time of such turmoil in the Middle East, we have never had a situation like this where there has been such a disconnect between the U.S. president and the Israeli prime minister. And the fact that he won't even meet with him at the U.N., while he's going to meet with President Morsi, sends terrible signals.

GREGORY: Well, to-- to be fair, the prime minister of Israel did not describe that as a stub-- snub in that interview.

REP. KING: I'm saying it. I'm saying, I'm saying.

GREGORY: You're saying, okay. Congressman, your response?

REP. KEITH ELLISON (D-MN): Well, it's ridiculous. The president has been consistent. He's been steady. And he's had progress in the policy wins in the Middle East. I mean, this is a seriously deeply rooted phenomenon, the Arab Spring that is going to be unfolding for a long time. And the last thing we need is to start making quick emo-- emotionally-charged decisions. We need consistent steady leadership like the president has shown.

GREGORY: But there is a policy component, Andrea and Bob, to this. The *New York Times* writes about it in an analysis piece this morning. I want to put a portion of that on the screen because it does provide some context here. The upheaval over an anti-Islam video has suddenly become Mr. Obama's most serious foreign policy crisis of the election season and a range of analysts say it presents questions about central tenets of his Middle East policy: Did he do enough during the Arab Spring to help the transition to democracy from autocracy? Has he drawn a hard enough line against Islamic extremists? Did his administration fail to address security concerns?

MS. ANDREA MITCHELL (Host, "ANDREA MITCHELL REPORTS"): Well, first of all, I think we have to exce-- concede that George Herbert Walker Bush's relationship with the then prime minister of Israel was arguably much worse than what we're seeing now. So, Republicans as well as Democrats have had difficulty, Congressman, in the past with Israel. That..,

REP. KING: It's always the post-9/11 world.

MS. MITCHELL: ..but that said...

REP. KING: There's never been a relationship like this.

MS. MITCHELL: ...that said. I think there can be a legitimate criticism that this president has not handled the Israeli-Palestinian issue well, but the Arab Spring has been a much greater, much broader troubling issue that arguably not any American president could handle very effectively. That is not the argument. That is not the policy argument that-- that Mitt Romney has made. Mitt Romney's-- the criticism of Mitt Romney is coming largely from many Republicans whom I talked to, foreign policy experts, who say that in the middle of the crisis when the state department did not know where Ambassador Stevens was, when the body was missing, that he came out with a written statement and doubled down on it the next morning and that it was not presidential, it did not show leadership. That is the criticism...

REP. KING: When he put out the statement, he didn't know that the ambassador had been shot.

MS. MITCHELL: But then he shouldn't have put out a statement, you know, the argue...

REP. KING: Well, first up-- that's exactly the problem. Entire project-- I mean, if you don't know something, how can you-- I mean, it's not (Unintelligible).

MS. MITCHELL: But silence is often a good choice. Peggy Noonan said that as well.

REP. ELLISON: What about waiting until you know more? I mean, what about Reagan? Reagan said, you know, when we have a crisis like this, we should all come together as Americans and not sort of-- divide up politically and try to seek a-- a point.

REP. KING: You know, sometimes wait...

REP. ELLISON: That was in-- that was a-- that was a sad moment.

REP. KING: President Obama waited three days after the underwear bomber before he made a statement, and then he came out and said, this was a sole individual...

GREGORY: All right, let me get Bob to weigh in.

REP. KING: ...al Qaeda operation.

MR. BOB WOODWARD (Associate Editor, *Washington Post*): There's a way to look at this neutrally, and I-- I just don't think the charge of weakness will stick. I mean, Obama's been tough on these things. Let's be realistic. The extremists in the Middle East who are causing all of this trouble are extremists. And no Republican, no Democratic president is going to be able to control them. The question is, what's the policy and what's the response? And you deal in the intelligence world and you ask the experts about this and they'll say you never know. Ten people are going to come together and take over an embassy, shoot someone and so forth. So the idea that government can-- has the puppet strings here is- is just--

(Cross talk)

GREGORY: But couldn't we've done well with-- well, but let's get-- gentleman, let's get to the point. Where...

MR. GOLDBERG: Yeah.

GREGORY: Where are the extremists who are-- who are protesting about the fact that Muslims are being killed in Syria every day, as you don't see those protests? Is this about the United States or is it about them?

MR. GOLDBERG: It's about everything. I mean, the truth is it's about everything. It's unfolding. It'll be unfolding for a generation. And you're right. I mean, you don't see-- you don't see that level of anxiety directed at Syria. Hundred-- in the last week, hundreds of Syrian Muslims have been killed by the Syrian regime. And you don't see Syrian embassies being attacked. Obviously-- obviously-- obviously, if you're-- you know, we talked so much about the Arab street, how the Arab street feels about America. We-- we have to start talking about the American street too, because this is going to have consequences for these governments that we support. You know, we Americans see these countries that are-- that we provide billions of dollars who're not protecting our embassies, and they're eventually going to say, the American people can say enough already with this.

REP. ELLISON: This is a good time to realize that the so-called Arab street is not one monolithic thing. You have some people in, say, Libya, for example, who are pro-- holding up signs, apologizing for what happened to Chris Stevens.

GREGORY: Right. We have some of them. Yeah.

REP. ELLISON: Yeah. And-- and-- and, we-- we need to understand that this is not-- everybody's not on the same side. You have some radicals who want to push back. Some con-- some of-- some loyalists from the old regime, some extremists, who want to exploit the situation, and you have people who want a Democratic society. They're both contesting for who's going to come out and the United States should stay on their side.

REP. KING: But-- but how do we appeal to the wrong people in the Middle East by somehow exalting this whole-- this whole idea of the video being the cause of the-- of the riot?

REP. ELLISON: It's a spark. It's not a cause.

REP. KING: Okay. But for us to be saying somehow putting that on the equivalence of the American policy or to say that our policy in this country can be determined by a fanatical Christian minister in the South or radical Islamist mobs in the Middle East, then I think, the president can do more.

MS. MITCHELL: I-- I agree with that.

REP. KING: The president should be dealing with the--

GREGORY: But, Congressman, is it responsible for Mitt Romney to say that a President Romney could have stopped this from happening?

REP. KING: I think it's responsible for him to say that he would set a policy which would not be as confusing as this one. Why (Unintelligible) with President Morsi? Why didn't the next day the president even mention President Morsi? He come out to not say a word about the fact that our supposed ally--he doesn't even know if he's an ally or not--was getting a billion dollars not to defend our embassy in Cairo. The president did not mention that.

REP. ELLISON: But when the president called-- but when the president called, Morsi listened.

REP. KING: But for the single (cross talk) said nothing about it...

REP. ELLISON: And I-- and I wouldn't...

(Cross talk)

REP. KING: No, everyone is being critical of Mitt Romney.

GREGORY: Okay, good.

REP. KING: President Obama made his statement, he did not even mention the failure of leadership in Egypt.

MS. MITCHELL: Well, Congressman, you're absolutely correct. I think that it is easy for the administration to try to point to the film. There is a much broader issue, as Jeffrey and-- and Bob has-- have been pointing to. The world is changing and it is changing too rapidly for any American leadership to figure out what to do. There is going to be a big argument over foreign aid, you know that. And whether or not that is even a sensible argument is another question. They have a big problem with Morsi. Morsi needs economic aid. He has, I've been told, reached out to the New York economic club. He wants to give a speech here in 10 days. He knows he needs the IMF. He knows he needs the United States. But he's trying at the same time to placate the radical elements in the brotherhood.

GREGORY: Let me...

MR. WOODWARD: But-- but the core problem is there're angry people out there. And you can't identify them. And the-- the idea that you're going to have a government policy to deal with angry people in a-- in a way that will suppress them just is not going to happen.

GREGORY: Let me get a break in here-- let me get a break in here. We'll come back with the roundtable. More on this, the political impact right in the middle of the campaign. More with our roundtable right after this.

(Announcements)

GREGORY: We're back with our roundtable. Some context here--look at this polling from CNN/ORC--better at handling foreign policy, a big advantage for President Obama as we go into these presidential debates. Jeffrey Goldberg?

MR. GOLDBERG: You know, I-- I was troubled by something that Susan Rice said before, which is talking about how people are offended by this movie and sort of apologizing for this-- this film. I think there's a-- there's a perpetual grievance machine working in the Middle East. Bob-- Bob points this out. People will be angry no matter what. And-- and at a certain point, I think the administration should just say, look, we have free speech in America. It is part of our value system. You know, opp-- opposition to blasphemy is part of your value system and we respect that as long as you do it peacefully, but we have free speech in our country and we're going to stand up for our liberal western values.

MR. KING: Suppose tomorrow with Salman Rushdie, we going to back down on that also, yeah.

MR. GOLDBERG: No. Exactly. You want to be-- you want to stand very strongly. And you want to also support liberal thought in the Middle East and that means engaging with-- you have to remember most Muslims in the Middle East aren't attacking American embassies, many want to be-- have more liberal open society.

GREGORY: Congressman Ellison, is our only leverage in the United States money and foreign aid?

REP. ELLISON: Absolutely not. We have a lot of influence in terms of culture, in terms of just the way America is a democratic society. We should use that. They, as a matter of fact, all the protests we saw were for people reaching for a greater level of democracy. But foreign aid is a part of it. And I think that for us to threaten to snatch aid now is dangerous and a bad idea.

GREGORY: Andrea Mitchell, the question of Iran as well, I want to get reaction to the prime minister. He said something among the significant things, there-- they have an equal commitment, he said, Mitt Romney and President Obama, to prevent Iran from going nuclear. That is not the wedge that Governor Romney has been arguing. He has said, "You re-elect President Obama they go nuclear, you elect me they do not."

MS. MITCHELL: And yet Mitt Romney himself misspoke apparently in another interview saying that he agrees with President Obama on what that imaginary red line is. I thought it was very interesting that Prime Minister Netanyahu said they are in a red zone. The football analogy, yes. But he was trying to smooth over the differences. But there are very real differences. Real differences in that while President Obama has made a commitment to stop them from weaponizing, from getting a-- from going nuclear, they believe somehow in this notion that they will have the intelligence, they will know when the Ayatollah makes a political decision, and they will still have the time. And arguably in the past, we've learned that intelligence is not that precise.

MR. WOODWARD: There is so much turns on the intelligence. It was this interesting your discussion with the Israeli Prime Minister, and he said, well, at six months and they'll have 90 percent. And the Ambassador Rice said, well, it's not imminent that they're going to get the bomb. If you study intelligence, as I have for about 40 years, and Jeffrey and I were talking about, some day we're going to write a book called "The Unintelligence of Intelligence" because it's just often wrong. And people are surprised. And we're-- you know, deep, deep uncertainty about all of this-- 90 percent, six months, it's not going to happen. We don't know.

GREGORY: What about-- what about this interference in our election? You're curious about that from both of you, because he takes on-- well, I-- I pressed him on that charge.

MR. GOLDBERG: Well, there's-- there's two issues. One is a legitimate issue, which is this debate over red lines. This is the debate that Obama and Netanyahu should have, a discussion, in private. And-- and that's-- that's legitimate for-- for Netanyahu to raise. What's illegitimate, and-- and let me put this as-- as bluntly as I can. I've been watching the relationship between the U.S. and Israel for 20 years, more than 20 years, very seriously and I've never seen an Israeli prime minister mismanage the relationship with the United States or with the administration the way this prime minister has. Obama is not blameless. The first year, the peace process was a disaster. But, you know, one-- one person here is the-- one person here is the senior partner, one is the-- the junior partner, and Netanyahu has turned this into a story about himself and Obama.

REP. KING: No, I-- I disagree. I'm-- I'm not here to criticize our president. The fact is in 2009 when he went to the Middle East and suggested a moral equivalency between the Iranians and the Israelis, when he was harping on against the Israelis, the fact is the Israeli government does not trust the American government. And that's really the issue. Not when the red line is going to be or where it's going to be. The fact is there was not a trust between the Israeli prime minister and the American President. And this is a President who'd come in saying he was going to restore harmony among nations, he was going to have better relationship with our overseas allies...

MS. MITCHELL: But...

REP. KING: ...and adversaries.

GREGORY: Are you double down on the comment that this President has thrown Israel under the bus?

REP. KING: He has not shown-- yes, I will. In the context of politics, yes, he has, absolutely.

REP. ELLISON: That's-- that's absolutely wrong.

REP. KING: He absolutely has.

REP. ELLISON: There's no evidence to that.

REP. KING: The way...

GREGORY: What does that mean in the context of politics, it's either true or it's not.

REP. KING: It-- it is true.

REP. ELLISON: It's not true.

REP. KING: It is true. Let me tell you why it's true. You had an Israeli prime minister being-- when he went to the White House being put off to eat by himself, being ignored by the president. You have the president refusing to sit down with him at the U.N. This is an ally.

REP. ELLISON: Well...

REP. KING: He's not going to treat Morsi this way.

REP. ELLISON: According to...

REP. KING: He's not going to treat the Arab League this way.

REP. ELLISON: According to...

REP. KING: To treat an ally like that is, yeah, like putting him under the bus.

GREGORY: All right. Go ahead, Congressman.

REP. ELLISON: ---military leaders the security relationship is as good as it ever has been.

REP. KING: We're talking about diplomatic relationship.

GREGORY: Hold on, let him...

REP. ELLISON: And-- and-- no, no, no. And so-- and so the point is this is a sad reality where we are putting Israel as a political football in an election, it should not be done.

REP. KING: The president...

REP. ELLISON: And-- and as a matter of fact, I think that the-- that the president-- President Netanyahu (sic) ought to be a little bit more careful (cross talk) himself.

GREGORY: Andrea, and I really-- in ten seconds, what do you look for this week as we move beyond, as this conversation moves?

MS. MITCHELL: I think there are more security challenges. You've got embassies shut down. The marines are going to be more engaged in various places. This is a crisis. And it could rebound against President Obama.

GREGORY: All right. Before we go and take a break, I wanted to let you know that you can catch more of Bob Woodward in our take two web extra, which will be posted on our press pass blog this afternoon. We're going to talk in depth about his new book, *The Price of Politics*. You can read an excerpt on our-- of the book on our website as well, that's meetthepressnbc.com. We'll be back with more in just a moment.

(Announcements)

GREGORY: Before we go this morning, a couple of programming notes. You can watch this week's press pass conversation on our blog as well, a lot going on on the blog. Some straight talk from the much talked about duo themselves. Simpson-Bowles, Former Senator Alan Simpson, former

White House chief of staff for President Clinton Erskine Bowles, that's at meetthepressnbc.com.

Also Thursday on ROCK CENTER WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS, Ted Koppel goes toe-to-toe with the lives of Bill O'Reilly, Ann Coulter and Bill Maher for a provocative new look at the role of openly partisan media and at the role it's playing in our society. That's on ROCK CENTER Thursday at 10:00 P.M. Eastern, 9:00 Central.

That is all for us today. We'll be back next week. If it's Sunday, it's MEET THE PRESS. And as we leave you, we remember the lives of Ambassador Chris Stevens and the three other Americans that were lost this week in the attack on our consulate in Libya. Our thoughts and prayers of course are with their families.

25

From around the web

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Not Having One Of These Credit Cards in 2014 May Be a Mistake (NextAdvisor Daily)

These are Absolutely the HOTTEST WWE Divas Ever (Rant Sports)

The 25 Richest Country Music Singers (Worthly)

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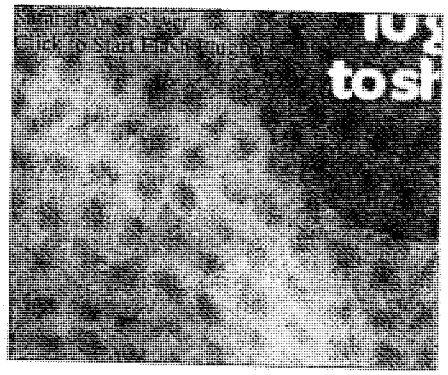

STATE OF THE UNION WITH CANDY CROWLEY

Interview with Benjamin Netanyahu; Interview with Susan Rice; Interview with Nancy Pelosi; Interview with Rudy Giuliani

Aired September 16, 2012 - 09:00 ET

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CANDY CROWLEY, CNN ANCHOR: Is it really about an obscure promotion on YouTube, or is there a bigger picture?

Today as anti-American protests hit the Arab world a challenge of a different sort in the prickly relationship between president Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER: What's guiding me contrary to what I've read in the United States, it's not the American political calendar, it's the Iranian nuclear calendar.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CROWLEY: And the future of the president's outreach to the Muslim world with U.S. ambassador of the United Nations Susan Rice.

Then democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, bullish on winning back the house.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REP. NANCY PELOSI, (D) CALIFORNIA: That was the pivotal day.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CROWLEY: Plus, foreign policy and poll numbers with Romney supporter and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani.

I'm Candy Crowley. And this is State of the Union.

Another Middle East problem area flamed anew this week: certain that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons, but pressured not to take military action right now, the prime minister of Israel is pushing back. Benjamin Netanyahu argues the U.S. must set specific limits for Iran. He suggested otherwise Israel will move forward on its own.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

NETANYAHU: Those in the international community will refuse to put red lines before Iran don't have a moral right to place a red light before Israel.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CROWLEY: Netanyahu's call for red lines to restrain Iran was presumably the main topic in a private one-hour phone conversation with President Obama this week. But Secretary of State Clinton said publicly the U.S. will not set any deadlines after which Netanyahu told an Israeli paper, "I hear all those people who say we should wait until the very last minute, but what if the U.S. doesn't intervene? That is the question we have to ask."

Joining me now Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Thank you so much for joining us, Mr. Prime Minister. There has been all this talk about red lines put before Iran which you have talked about. Can you tell me what you would like that red line to be in the best of all possible worlds for you and for Israel, what would you like the U.S. to commit to in terms of a red line?

NETANYAHU: I think the issue is how to prevent Iran from completing its nuclear weapons program. They're moving very rapidly, completing the enrichment of the uranium they need to produce a nuclear bomb. In six months or so they'll be 90 percent of the way there. I think it's important to place a red line before Iran. And I think that actually reduces the chance of military conflict because if they know there's a point, a stage in the enrichment or other nuclear activities that they cannot cross because they'll face consequences, I think they'll actually not cross it. And that's been proved time and again.

President Kennedy put a red line before the Soviets in the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was criticized for it, but it actually pushed back the

Exhibit 37

world from conflict and maybe purchase decades of peace. There wasn't such a red line before Saddam Hussein, before -- on the eve of the Gulf War when he invaded Kuwait. Maybe that war could have been avoided. And I think Iran, too, has received some clear red lines on a number of issues, and they backed off from them.

So I think as Iran gets closer and closer to the completion of its nuclear program, I think it's important to place a red line before them. And that's something I think we should discuss with the United States.

CROWLEY: And let me read you something I know you're probably quite familiar with. But for our viewers, something the president has said repeatedly. This he said at the beginning of the year. "As president of the United States I don't bluff. I think both the Iranian and the Israeli governments recognize that when the United States says it is unacceptable for Iran to have a nuclear weapon, we mean what we say."

Do you disagree with that?

NETANYAHU: I think that when he says that implicit in that is that he will stop them before they get to a nuclear weapon, which means they'll draw red line somewhere. I think it's important to communicate it to them.

I wouldn't bet -- I wouldn't bet the security of the world and my own country's future from a country that threatens our annihilation, murders civilians en masse in Syria and brutalizes its own people. I wouldn't bet the future on intelligence for simple reasons.

American intelligence and Israeli intelligence that cooperate together had had wonderful successes in saving lives and alerting our people, but we've also had our failures, both of us. You know, you've just marked 9/11. That wasn't seen. None of us, neither Israel or the United States, saw Iran building this massive nuclear bunker under a mountain. For two years they proceed without or knowledge. So I think the one thing we do know is what they're doing right now. We know that they're enriching this material. We know that in the six, seven months they'll have got to covered 90 percent of the way for an atomic bomb material. And I think that we should count on the things that we do know in setting the red line.

CROWLEY: And what we know is, of course, that Iran is allowed under agreements, international agreements to go ahead and do what it's doing because there are legitimate peaceful purposes for enriching this uranium.

NETANYAHU: Do you think so? You think so, Candy? That's like -- well, let me interrupt -- it's not legitimate. This is a country that talks about -- denies the holocaust, promises to wipe out Israel, is engaged in terror throughout the world. It's like Timothy McVeigh walking into a shop in Oklahoma City and saying I like to tend my garden. I would like to buy some fertilizer.

How much do you want?

Oh, I don't know, 20,000 pounds.

Come on. We know that they're working towards a weapon. They're not -- we know that. It's not something that we surmise. We have absolutely certainty about that. And they're advancing towards that nuclear program.

CROWLEY: Do you mean you and the U.S. know that, because I don't from what I read, from what I hear, I don't get the sense that the U.S. has the certainty that you do or the urgency that you seem to have. Is there a disconnect there?

NETANYAHU: First of all, I talked about the certainty of their enrichment program, and I didn't talk about the other elements. And I spoke about the difficulty of knowing other things, but we have no difficulty as the IAEA report just tells us what they're doing in their enrichment program. That we know for sure. That's the only thing we know for sure that is verifiable and accessible. We know that.

As far as the U.S. and Israel, obviously we have different capability. You're a big country. You're several thousand miles away. You have stronger military capabilities. We're a smaller country. We are more vulnerable. They threaten our very annihilation, so obviously we have different capabilities and different clocks. But in terms of what is happening as Iran is getting closer and closer to completing its work for the first atomic bomb, the differences between us in our capabilities are becoming less and less important because Iran is fast approaching a point where it could disappear from our capability of stopping and our capability means not only Israel.

CROWLEY: I get the sense that your hour-long phone conversation with President Obama did not get you where you wanted to go insofar as U.S. willingness to set this red line. Is that correct?

NETANYAHU: Look, we had a good conversation. I'm not going to get into the details. I respect the president. I respect also the confidence of our conversation. But I think that -- I think this is a matter of urgency and people should understand it, that's what's guiding it.

What's guiding me, contrary to what I have read in the United States, is not the American political calendar, it's the Iranian nuclear calendar. And the Iranian centrifuges that are charging ahead simply do not take time out for the American elections. I wish the Iranians would shut down the centrifuges and then we won't have to talk about it, but they don't. And in fact, they do the very opposite. That's what's driving the urgency of this. And again, we have close consultations with the United States on this issue.

CROWLEY: Is the answer then, that no, you don't have the red line that you would like to have from the U.S.? Can you tell me at least that?

NETANYAHU: I think you should have a red line communicated to Iran, that's what I would say. And I think it's vital. I know that people value flexibility. I think that's important. But I think at this late stage of the game, I think Iran needs to see clarity. I'm not sure I would have said this three years ago, two years ago, one year ago, but as we get closer and closer and closer to the end game, I think we have to establish that.

That's becoming important, because you have to just think about it. You know, you see the Middle East. You see these fanatics storming your embassies, and I want to send my condolences to the American people for the loss of that extraordinary ambassador and his extraordinary colleagues. We sympathize as no other people does with the United States.

And yet, you know that as we face the possibility of a regime that is guided by the same fanaticism would have nuclear weapons, it's become something urgent for all of us to make sure they don't get there, and if you want to make sure that they don't get there. And if you want to make sure that they don't get there, make sure that they know that there is a line they shouldn't cross. Because otherwise, they'll cross it, and they'll get there.

CROWLEY: There's also people in your own country who have said that this is more aimed at President Obama and your friend Mitt Romney than it is about any new urgency. And I know you have heard this.

CROWLEY: And I wanted to ask you as a wrap-up question, do you see any major differences between the U.S. position vis-a-vis the relationship with Israel when you look at President Obama's position and when you look at former Governor Romney's position? Is there any difference in their policies towards Israel that you can detect?

NETANYAHU: Look, I know that people, Candy, are trying to draw me into the American election, and I'm not going to do that. But I will say that we value, we cherish the bipartisan support for Israel in the United States, and we're supported by Democrats and Republicans alike.

You know, this is not an electoral issue. It is not based on any electoral consideration. I think that there's a common interest of all Americans over all political persuasions to stop Iran.

This is a regime that is giving vent to the worst impulses that you see right now in the Middle East. They deny the rights of women, deny democracy, brutalize their own people, don't give freedom of religion.

All the things that you see now in these mobs storming the American embassies is what you will see with a regime that would have atomic bombs. You can't have such people have atomic bombs. And I believe that's as important for Republicans as it is for Democrats, important for Democrats as it is for Republicans. It's as important for President Obama as it is for Mitt Romney. It's important for the future of our world.

CROWLEY: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, that's a good place for us to end it. I appreciate your time this morning.

NETANYAHU: Thank you.

CROWLEY: The Arab Spring's unintended consequences, that's next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

CROWLEY: In his second inaugural address, President Bush said the U.S. would seek out and promote democracy around the globe.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GEORGE W. BUSH, 43RD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. (APPLAUSE)

BUSH: The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CROWLEY: In Cairo, four years later, President Obama reached out the Muslim world with a new version of the same idea.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I know there has been controversy about the promotion of democracy in recent years. And much of this controversy is connected to the war in Iraq. So let me be clear, no system of government can or should be imposed by one nation, by any other.

That does not lessen my commitment, however, to governments that reflect the will of the people.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CROWLEY: And then early last year uprisings on the Arab streets toppled longstanding autocratic regimes in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya with the explicit yet sometimes delayed support of the West.

This week in at least 23 countries around the world the people returned to the streets to protest, sometimes violently, sometimes not, outside U.S. embassies. How, why, and what turned the Arab Spring into this autumn rage against the West. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice is next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

CROWLEY: Joining me is the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice.

Madam Ambassador, thank you for joining us.

RICE: Good to be with you, Candy.

CROWLEY: One of the things when I spoke with the Israeli prime minister that struck me was the conviction that he has that for certain Iran is building -- on its way to building a nuclear weapon, and his sense of urgency that at this moment the U.S. needs to set what he calls a "red line" for the U.S.

Does the U.S. share the conviction that Iran is, indeed, building a nuclear weapon? And, B, what about the concept of a red line?

RICE: Well, Candy, the United States is in constant communication with Israel and Israeli intelligence, Israeli policy makers, the military. We're sharing our assessments every day. And our assessments, our intelligence assessments are very similar. Obviously, we share a grave concern about Iran pursuing a nuclear weapon. We are determined to prevent that from happening. President Obama has been absolutely clear, and on this there's absolutely no daylight between the United States and Israel that we will do what it takes to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

We are not at that stage yet. They do not have a nuclear weapon. Our shared intelligence assessments is that there is still a considerable time and space before they will have a nuclear weapon should they make the decision to go for that. But we've been very clear. The United States is not interested and is not pursuing a policy of containment. President Obama has been very plain. We will keep all option on the table, including the military option, as necessary, to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

But, Candy, the fact is we have just seen the imposition of another layer of the toughest sanctions that have ever been impose odd a country. In this case, Iran. Their economy is beginning to buckle. Their oil production is down 40 percent. Their currency has plummeted

40 percent in the last year. Their economy is now shrinking. And this is only going to intensify.

So we think that there's still considerable time for this pressure to work. But this is not an infinite window. And we've made very clear that the president's bottom line is Iran will not have a nuclear weapon.

CROWLEY: Let me move you to what's gone on in the Middle East in Arab countries and elsewhere. There is a "New York Times" story this morning that suggests that the administration thinks this is a foreshadowing of a fall that will see sustained instability. Does the administration expect to see these sorts of protests outside U.S. embassies and elsewhere throughout the fall?

RICE: Well, Candy, first of all, let's recall what has happened in the last several days. There was a hateful video that was disseminated on the internet. It had nothing to do with the United States government and it's one that we find disgusting and reprehensible. It's been offensive to many, many people around the world.

That sparked violence in various parts of the world, including violence directed against western facilities including our embassies and consulates. That violence is absolutely unacceptable, it's not a response that one can ever condone when it comes to such a video. And we have been working very closely and, indeed, effectively with the governments in the region and around the world to secure our personnel, secure our embassy, condemn the violent response to this video.

And, frankly, we've seen these sorts of incidents in the past. We've seen violent responses to "Satanic Verses." We've seen violent responses to the cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in an evil way. So this is something we've seen in the past, and we expect that it's possible that these kinds of things could percolate into the future. What we're focused on is securing our personnel, securing our facilities.

CROWLEY: Do you at this moment feel that U.S. embassies abroad are secure?

RICE: We are doing our utmost to secure our facilities and our personnel and in various vulnerable places. We have demanded and we are receiving the cooperation of host governments. Host governments have also put out very strong messages in Libya, in Egypt, in Yemen and Tunisia condemning violence, saying that it's a completely unacceptable response to such a video. And we feel that we are now in a position doing the maximum that we can to protect our people.

CROWLEY: Why would one not look at what is going on in the Middle East now and say that the president's outreach to Muslims, which began at the beginning of his administration in Cairo and elsewhere has not worked because, yes, this video sparked it, but there is an underlying anti-Americanism that is very evident on the streets. So Why not look at it and think that this is this outreach has failed?

RICE: For the same reason, Candy, when you look back at history and we had the horrible experience of our facilities and our personnel being attacked Beirut in 1981, we had the attack on Khobar Towers in the 1990s. We had an attack on our embassy in Yemen in 2008. There have been such attacks. There have been expressions of hostility towards the west.

CROWLEY: But this was sort of a reset, was it not? It was supposed to be a reset of U.S.-Muslim relations?

RICE: And indeed, in fact, there had been substantial improvements. I have been to Libya and walked the streets of Benghazi myself. And despite what we saw in that horrific incident where some mob was hijacked ultimately by a handful of extremists, the United States is extremely popular in Libya and the outpouring of sympathy and support for Ambassador Stevens and his colleagues from the government, from people is evidence of that.

The fact is, Candy, that this is a turbulent time. It's a time of dramatic change. It's a change that the United States has backed because we understand that when democracy takes root, when human rights and people's freedom of expression can be manifested, it may lead to turbulence in the short-term, but over the long-term, that is in the interest of the United States.

The mobs we've seen on the outside of these embassies are small minority. They're the ones who have largely lost in these emerging democratic processes, and just as the people of these countries are not going to allow their lives to be hijacked by a dictator, they're not going to allow an extremist mob to hijack their future and their freedom,. And we're going to continue to stand with the vast majority of the populations in these countries.

They want freedom. They want a better future. And understand that we're with them in that long-term endeavor.

CROWLEY: All right. U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Susan Rice. I got to let you go here.

RICE: Thank you. Thank you very much.

CROWLEY: We'll switch gears next and talk to Democratic Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi about her road map to retake control of the House.

And later, a batch of fresh polls show Mitt Romney may be losing steam in his bid for the White House. Supporter and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is here to discuss.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

CROWLEY: No matter what they promise as a candidate, presidents can't do much of what they want without a cooperative congress, which brings us to the U.S. House currently run by Republicans who hold 240 seats compared to 190 held by Democrats. To take control next January, Democrats need a net gain of 25 seats in November.

At the Democratic Convention earlier this month, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi told reporters she's looking for a 27 seat pick-up, that would put her in line to regain the speakership.

She is expecting victories in Texas, California, Illinois, New York, Washington State, and Arizona. Democrats are also eying power changing winds in the presidential battleground states of Florida, Ohio, Iowa, and Nevada. And there is even talk about Montana where the House seat has been Republican for 15 years.

We should stress that most polls point to, and most political forecasters predict that Democrats will gain seats, but not enough to win the majority.

Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and the reason for her optimism is next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

CROWLEY: Earlier I visited with House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. We began with the Democrats' chances for winning back the majority in November.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

CROWLEY: I read something in "Roll Call" that described the prospects for Democrats retaking the House as theoretically possible but unlikely. Would you agree with that?

PELOSI: No. I think that, first of all, I don't know what that is, but I do know that the source of our confidence is, and that's the quality of our candidates. They're just great. The fact that they are strong in terms of their grass roots mobilization and their resource raising and the rest. And that the issues are with us.

For one year and a half since the Republicans passed their budget, which the Romney-Ryan now, Republican budget, which severs the Medicare guarantee, we have been saying three important issues of the campaign, and in alphabetical order they are Medicare, Medicare, Medicare.

On August 11th when Governor Romney chose Ryan, that was the pivotal day.

ROMNEY: Paul Ryan has become an intellectual leader of the Republican Party.

PELOSI: That is a day things really changed.

We were on a path. I would have said to you then we were dead even. Well, momentum is very much with us. The Medicare issue in this campaign.

So we have a message. We have the messengers. We have the money. We have the mobilization. We have an excellent chance to take back the House.

CROWLEY: Just quickly, the Romney campaign says that Medicare will always be a choice, but that they want to open it up so that they're not cutting off the Medicare option.

PELOSI: Well, you know, that is completely upside down. It's a contradiction of Medicare. Medicare is a guarantee. To make it a voucher is to put the decision in the hands of the insurance companies. Seniors know that. I'm a senior. I know that.

The whole pillar that Medicare is about economic and health security for our seniors and those who depend on Medicare. There are families who need their parents and grandparents to be provided for under Medicare. Everybody understands that.

If you don't believe in Medicare, you will say what the Republicans are saying.

CROWLEY: Let me ask you, if it should turn out that you gain seats in the House, but you don't take over the majority spot, would you still run for leader of Democrats?

PELOSI: Well, I don't ever predicate anything when losing. I feel very confident about our ability to win. Who will lead the party after that is up to my members. I feel that I...

CROWLEY: Oh, sure, but would you still run, whether it was for speaker or Democratic leader?

PELOSI: Well, I actually, didn't choose to run last time. My members chose that I would run last time.

But this isn't about me, this is about Medicare. It's about Social Security. It's about women's rights. It's about the American dream. It's about our democracy. All of that is on the ballot.

CROWLEY: If we look at the polls rather than the possibilities, it looks as though there is an even chance that the senate Republicans could take over and that the probability is that Democrats will not take over in the House.

So let's say everything stays as is and the president is re- elected. What's different about the dynamic that has been so toxic between Capitol Hill and the White House if we have what currently the polls show is -- you know, if the election were held today?

PELOSI: Well, with that theoretical, the -- you'll see more of the same because it's really important for the public to know that the Republican obstruction of President Obama's jobs bills and whatever he was advancing, their obstruction is their agenda. They really don't believe in...

CROWLEY: Does that change? If nothing changes in the dynamic...

PELOSI: It's what they believe in. Now I have always said in my Republicans take back your party, because this wing of the party or this over the edge crowd that is in charge -- taking charge of wagging the dog in congress is never going to cooperate, because they do not believe in a public roll. Clean air, clean water, public safety, public education, public transportation, public health, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, they don't believe in it, and that's what their budget is about. And that's what wee we vote on the floor almost every day.

CROWLEY: Do you see that changing.

PELOSI: No, I don't see it, that's why it's important for us to win the election so that we can go forward because bipartisan collaboration is on the ballot too.

When President Bush, George W. Bush, was president and we were in the majority and I was the speaker, we had our differences, we fought, but we also found common ground.

GEORGE W. BUSH, 43rd PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I thank the leadership of the congress for joining us here.

PELOSI: There are so many places where we came together.

CROWLEY: So you could work with Mitt Romney basically, if it came to that?

PELOSI: Oh, Mitt Romney is not going to be president of the United States.

(LAUGHTER)

CROWLEY: Let me ask you...

PELOSI: I think everybody knows that.

CROWLEY: The president has put out his -- by law he had to put out a response to detail what its cut and what doesn't get cut under what we call sequestration, which are just mandated across the board cuts in both sides of the ledger. It says it will be horrible if it happens, et cetera, et cetera. The Republicans have complained repeatedly that there is no presidential leadership on this.

What is the president's involvement been so far in trying to get Republicans and Democrats together to avoid this fiscal cliff?

PELOSI: Well, the president as recently as yesterday I received a call from him saying we really do have to have an agreement, which I fully agree with, and the must have as much -- do everything we can to find common ground. That's what we did one year ago, more than a year ago in July/August of last year and the president worked very hard with the speaker to come out with a bipartisan agreement that was a big design which had $4 trillion over 10 years in deficit reduction and the House and Senate Democrats said Mr. President, we're with you on this. He agreed to it. The Republicans walked away. CROWLEY: Is he a work-the-phoner, though? I mean, compare him, say, to Bill Clinton who you also worked with. I mean, the image that we have is a president that does not do that as much as a Bill Clinton did in terms of offering guidance, trying to get people together in the same room, reaching out to Republicans, reaching out to you. The level of leadership from the president when it comes to legislative things compared to former President Clinton.

PELOSI: Well, I would say that they both score very high in terms of leadership. If you measure leadership in the number of phone calls, well, that might be a little bit of a different story because they're different personalities.

CROWLEY: Yes, more contact with Bill Clinton over the years.

PELOSI: Well, I wasn't leader or speaker when Bill Clinton was -- President Clinton was president, but we all -- but I saw how he worked with Congress and our leadership at the time.

Make no mistake, President Obama is, of course, a great leader. He has great vision for our country. He knows the issues. He has a plan. He is eloquent and can draw people to what he has to say, and that's all great.

He also is such a respectful person. And I have never seen -- I worked with presidents to a great or lesser degree, certainly to a greater degree to President Bush and President Obama, and this president has listened, spent time, respects the opinions of the Republicans to an extent that I think -- I wish one of them would come up with a new idea because he has more patience listening to them than I do.

But so, really, leadership should not be measured in the number of calls. But they were both great. They are both great leaders.

CROWLEY: So I'll just extrapolate from that that perhaps Bill Clinton was more hands-on than President Obama, but they both -- you think they both showed leadership?

PELOSI: Well, I think they're both hands-on. It's just a question of how they spent their time. And the challenges are very great today that the president -- as they were under President Clinton, but I think he uses his time well. I have no complaint with that.

CROWLEY: House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, thank you for joining us today.

PELOSI: Thank you, Candy. My pleasure.

CROWLEY: I appreciate it.

PELOSI: Thank you.

CROWLEY: Battleground polls show trouble for Governor Mitt Romney. Supporter and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is here next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

CROWLEY: I'm joined by former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Mr. Mayor, thanks for being here. It occurs...

RUDY GIULIANI (R), FORMER NEW YORK CITY MAYOR: Nice to be with you.

CROWLEY: ... to me that you, as well as anybody, understands that when there is a crisis, Americans tend to rally around their leaders. So with that in mind, tell me who had the better week this week, President Obama or Mitt Romney?

GIULIANI: Well, I think clearly Mitt Romney. Largely because what we see is the president's policies in the Middle East falling apart. I mean, the reality is the president got elected to reset our relationship in the Middle East. We might as well not have had the reset.

I mean, look at the American flag being burned, unrest in 20 countries, a front page article in The New York Times today saying they anticipate numerous additional demonstrations over the next four or five months.

America is no more popular in the Middle East than it was four years ago. And now in addition to that, we've shown this kind of provocative weakness to the Middle East. And we were for Mubarak before we were against Mubarak. We were more or less neutral on Gadhafi until we wanted to overthrow him.

Hillary Clinton announced that Assad was a reformer. Now we want to overthrow him. And we don't seem to be willing to set a red line for Iran when that's exactly what Jack Kennedy did in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

And you do that any time you are dealing with a provocative enemy that needs to know, well, how far can you go so we have no confusion? The president refuses to do it. Prime Minister Netanyahu is absolutely correct in pushing him to do it.

CROWLEY: There are plenty of people who would argue that the president as commander-in-chief had a better week, but I want to move you on to some things that I think are possibly troubling inside the Romney campaign.

you on to some things that I think are possibly troubling inside the Romney campaign...

This is the latest look at some battleground states from the NBC News/Marist poll with The Wall Street Journal. Ohio, it has President Obama up 7 points. And in Florida and Virginia, the same poll has President Obama up 5 points. What is wrong there?

GIULIANI: Nothing is wrong. It's a close election. Those are polls...

CROWLEY: Well, that's -- some of these -- I mean, those are pretty good leads compared to what we have seen before.

GIULIANI: I don't know. Those are the kinds of leads John Kerry had on Election Day, and George Bush became the president. You know? So those are -- those are margins that are well within striking distance for either candidate. To be overconfident about who is going to win this election, in fact, whoever is overconfident about whoever is going to win this election is probably going to lose it.

This is a darn close election. Whoever expected what happened in the last week, week-and-a-half with -- in this election. This was going to be an election about the economy. It's now becoming an election that's looking an awful lot like 1980 with Jimmy Carter-style president in the White House.

CROWLEY: But sure -- even you would agree, surely, that having American hostages held for 444 days is a little different from having a protest outside American embassies, yes, there -- and we had the deaths of these -- the tragic deaths of these four Americans in Libya, which a lot of folks are arguing is a different thing from saying everything here has failed.

So the question is, do you actually believe that this no longer is about the economy?

GIULIANI: No, no, I do. I believe it's about the economy, but I think the situation in the Middle East is becoming more and more important. And, Candy, I would argue that the situation in Iran is equally as dangerous as it was with the hostages there except this time they want to become nuclear.

And the president is fiddling while Iran is just moving ahead. I mean, he had to be forced -- he had to be forced to use these crippling sanctions, which he has used late, and I don't know how crippling they are since he has exempted 20 countries from them.

CROWLEY: And yet at...

GIULIANI: I mean, these sanctions...

CROWLEY: ... this point, Mr. Mayor...

GIULIANI: Even the U.N. is saying his sanctions aren't working. They are not working. The president doesn't want to deal with it.

CROWLEY: And yet at this point can you tell me something different in Mitt Romney's proposed policies toward Iran than President Obama's policies? They both said Iran should not be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon, period. What's different?

GIULIANI: Well, I believe that Mitt Romney would set a red line. He'd make it clear exactly the point beyond which...

CROWLEY: Why doesn't he do that now?

GIULIANI: Well, he might over the course of these debates. He might very well do it. Although then you'd all criticize him for engaging and interfering in foreign policy. I mean, Mitt Romney can't win no matter what he does.

He spoke out as a leader about a really, really ridiculous statement by the State Department, for 16 hours they had a statement out there apologizing. All of a sudden he gets criticized.

I mean, the administration was clearly wrong about the level of security needed for that ambassador in that consulate. And you had Nancy Pelosi just on saying there was enough security.

If they are as wrong in their security estimate of Iran as they were about the consulate in Benghazi, we are in serious trouble.

CROWLEY: Let me turn you back to the economy, since it remains issue number one. When you look at our -- I'm sorry, at a New York Times/CBS poll, this was about the probable electorate, and the question was, which candidate would do a better job of handling the economy and unemployment? President Obama, 47, Mitt Romney, 46 percent.

Your candidate has lost the edge when it comes to the economy. If the economy is as bad as Republicans have told us it is, what is holding Mitt Romney back here because from your description of the economy, others' description of the economy, this really should be a president that doesn't have a chance and yet he's beating Mitt Romney.

GIULIANI: There's no such thing as an incumbent president doesn't have a chance. Having the presidency is an enormous advantage. The president has used it well. They have done a good job, I think an unfair one, they've done a good job of raising all kinds of irrelevant questions about Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, and the Romney/Ryan campaign has to overcome that.

But if you just look at the fundamentals, you know, 43 months of 8.1 or plus percent unemployment, no American president has ever been elected with these kinds of job loss numbers and permanent unemployment.

We haven't had something like this since the Great Depression.

CROWLEY: Which I think...

GIULIANI: I think that's going to...

CROWLEY: ... argues for why he isn't doing better. But let me, in our final moments, ask you whether you believe that the Romney campaign, that Mitt Romney needs to come out and say specifically, here is what I would do to reform the tax code, here are the loopholes I would close.

Does he need to be more specific? Does he need to give a foreign policy speech? Because the rap now from a lot of Republicans is, we don't -- there is no real alternative out there. Does he need to do that?

GIULIANI: Well, these are a bunch of Republicans who are, you know, running scared, because the polls aren't -- I mean, Romney is not ahead by 10 points or 15 points which, of course, would be totally unrealistic. I think he's running a perfectly fine campaign. This is the

level of specificity that American candidates usually give in a campaign.

My goodness, President Obama wasn't terribly specific four years ago when he told us he was -- he ran on hope and change. Hope and change. Look what a strategy that has been for the Middle East. Hope and change and now we have demonstrations in 20 countries.

CROWLEY: OK. All right. Mr. Mayor, thank you so much for joining us...

GIULIANI: Thank you.

CROWLEY: ... this morning. Come see us in the new studio.

GIULIANI: Always a pleasure, Candy.

CROWLEY: Thanks.

A tribute to five American heroes, after this.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK) CROWLEY: And finally we leave you with images from this week's tributes to five American heroes. Friday the bodies of the four Americans murdered in Libya, Christopher Stevens, Glenn Doherty, Sean Smith, and Tyrone Woods (ph), returned home to the U.S.

And just the day before, a memorial service was held here honoring Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon. He died at the age of 82. Armstrong never saw himself as a hero, but his extraordinary accomplishments didn't just leave his mark on the moon but here on Earth too.

Thanks for watching STATE OF THE UNION.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Neil will always be remembered for taking humankind's first small step on a world beyond our own.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No one, no one, but no one could have accepted the responsibility of his remarkable accomplishment with more dignity and more grace than Neil Armstrong. He embodied all that is good and all that is great about America.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Gracious God, on behalf of a grateful nation, and in the presence of grieving family members, friends, and colleagues, we welcome home for the final time Ambassador Chris Stevens, Mr. Sean Smith, Mr. Glen Doherty, and Mr. Tyrone Woods.

HILLARY CLINTON, SECRETARY OF STATE: If the last few days teach us anything, let it be this, that this work and the men and women who risked their lives to do it, are at the heart of what makes America great and good. OBAMA: Four Americans, four patriots, they loved this country. And they chose to serve it and served it well. They had a mission, and they believed in it. They knew the danger, and they accepted it. They didn't simply embrace the American ideal. They lived it. They embodied it.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

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CNN TV | HLN | Transcripts

From: draper, hannah a
Sent: 8/8/2012 5:55:58 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: The Guns of August: security in eastern Libya

UNCLASSIFIED
SBU

MRN:	12 TRIPOLI 952
Date/DTG:	Aug 08, 2012 / 080956Z AUG 12
From:	AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
Action:	WASHDC, SECSTATE*ROUTINE*
E.O.:	13526
TAGS:	PGOV, KDEM, LY
Captions:	SENSITIVE, SIPDIS
Subject:	The Guns of August: security in eastern Libya

1. (SBU) Summary: Since the eve of the elections, Benghazi has moved from trepidation to euphoria and back as a series of violent incidents has dominated the political landscape during the Ramadan holiday. These incidents have varied widely in motivation and severity. There have been abductions and assassinations, but there have also been false alarms and outright fabrications. The individual incidents have been organized, but this is not an organized campaign. What we are going through – and what people here are resolved to get through – is a confluence rather than a conspiracy. The Supreme Security Council (SSC), designed to be an interim security measure, has not coalesced into a stabilizing force, and provides little deterrence. Across the political spectrum, people concede the necessity of a security apparatus that is strong enough to keep peace, but many inherently fear abuse by the same authorities. This debate, playing out daily in Benghazi, has created the security vacuum that a diverse group of independent actors are exploiting for their own purposes. End Summary.

2. (SBU) In response to the widely reported security incidents of the past week, security forces have increased their profile and are now a more visible, though still understaffed, presence on Benghazi streets. Most prominent is Benghazi's SSC, assembled from former members of various militias as an interim security measure. However, even in the assessment of its own commander, Fawzi Younis, SSC Benghazi has not coalesced into an effective, stable security force.

3. (SBU) The absence of significant deterrence, has contributed to a security vacuum that is being exploited by independent actors: Ordinary criminals are able to engage in crimes that are more about profit than politics with relative impunity; car jackings and smuggling are particular concerns. Former regime elements are active because they believe that attacking the Revolution in its cradle will have maximum impact on public opinion. Islamist extremists are able to attack the Red Cross with relative impunity, and UN officials tell us human trafficking is on the rise. Violence at hospitals has become a particular concern, with security guards reportedly walking out after demands for treatment have escalated into shootings. Police in the eastern city of Marj have also staged sit-ins to protest lack of government follow-through on promises made to them as well.

4. (SBU) Though most acknowledge the need, others fear the government's potential strength. But a centralized and professional security force is the future, and contacts across the political spectrum concede that the government needs to

Exhibit 38

be strong enough to keep the peace (though strongly committed to doing so within checks and balances). This is a long-term prospect the militias regard with suspicion at best. As Benghazi navigates the move from a Transitional Council no one respects to a National Congress no one yet knows, they are clearly jockeying for position in a game that involves public relations and private intimidation. (Comment: A surprising number of contacts here dismiss many of the recent incidents – particularly the bombs that were reportedly discovered and disarmed – as having been engineered by the various security forces to discredit their rivals, to improve their own standing, and to seize prime real estate. End Comment).

5. (SBU) Comment: The SSC has increased its presence in the wake of the most recent string of security incidents in Benghazi. This approach is all authorities can do at present. But it is not clear whether it will prove to be effective. What we have seen are not random crimes of opportunity, but rather targeted and discriminate attacks. Attackers are unlikely to be deterred until authorities are at least as capable. End comment.

Signature:	STEVENS
Drafted By:	Benghazi:Gaudiosi, Eric V (Benghazi)
Cleared By:	POL-ECON:McFarland, David C Hicks, Gregory N
Approved By:	EXEC:Stevens, John C
Released By:	TRIPOLI:draper, hannah a
Info:	DEPT OF AGRICULTURE USD FAS WASHINGTON DC RUEHRC*ROUTINE*; DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC*ROUTINE*; DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC*ROUTINE*; DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC*ROUTINE*; DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC*ROUTINE*; CIA WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE*ROUTINE*; FBI WASHINGTON DC*ROUTINE*; AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE*ROUTINE*; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE*ROUTINE*
Action Post:	
Dissemination Rule:	Archive Copy

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SBU

Exhibit G

FOIA-A
FBI

Law Office
John H. Clarke
1629 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 332-3030
JohnHClarke@earthlink.net

Also Admitted in Virginia
and Maryland

FAX: (202) 332-3030
CELL: (202) 344-0776

AP-2014-04211

August 5, 2014

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Record/Information Dissemination Section
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2014
Office of Information Policy

David Hardy, Director
Office of Information Policy (OIP)
U.S. Department of Justice
1425 New York Ave., NW
Suite 11050
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: February 21, 2014 FOIA Request
FBI/DOJ Request No.: 1256410-000

Dear Mr. Hardy:

In the March 31, Administrative appeal of the captioned matter, the requesters narrowed item 10, regarding autopsy reports. Please note that we further narrow the requests to withdraw Request Nos. 2(4), 3, 4, and 6.

Request No. 2(4) sought records of "any probe into the meetings from January 2007 through September 2012 between Tripoli Embassy officials, including Christopher Stevens, and the individuals identified in the following Request 3 below." Additionally, plaintiffs withdraw Request No. 3, which sought records "regarding meetings between Christopher Stevens or any other Tripoli Embassy official, and one or more of the following [nine] individuals..." Request No. 4 sought disclosure of "records of whatsoever nature regarding (1) the Benghazi consulate and (2) its CIA Annex for the time period of January 1st, 2011, through September 30th, 2012..." Lastly, Request No. 6 sought copies of "[a]ll calendars, day books, journals, notes, memoranda, or other records reflecting Ambassador Stevens' schedule on September 11..."

Thank you.

Sincerely

John H Clarke

cc: Accuracy in Media, Inc.
Roger Aronoff
Larry Bailey
Kenneth Benway
Dick Brauer
Clare Lopez
James A. Lyons, Jr.
Kevin Shipp
Wayne Simmons

Law Office
John H. Clarke
1629 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

(202) 332-3030

JohnHClarke@earthlink.net

Also Admitted in Virginia
and Maryland

FAX: (202) 332-3030
CELL: (202) 344-0776

August 5, 2014

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Record/Information Dissemination Section
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

David Hardy, Director
Office of Information Policy (OIP)
U.S. Department of Justice
1425 New York Ave., NW
Suite 11050
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

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FBI/DOJ Request No.: 1256410-000

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Sincerely

John H Clarke

cc: Accuracy in Media, Inc.
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Dick Brauer
Clare Lopez
James A. Lyons, Jr.
Kevin Shipp
Wayne Simmons

Exhibit H

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Information Policy

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 19, 2014

John H. Clarke, Esq.
Suite 300
1629 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
JohnHClarke@earthlink.net

Re: Request No. 1256410

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This is to advise you that your administrative appeal from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was received by this Office on August 14, 2014.

The Office of Information Policy has the responsibility of adjudicating such appeals. In an attempt to afford each appellant equal and impartial treatment, we have adopted a general practice of assigning appeals in the approximate order of receipt. Your appeal has been assigned number **AP-2014-04211**. Please mention this number in any future correspondence to this Office regarding this matter. Please note that if you provide an e-mail address or another electronic means of communication with your request or appeal, this Office may respond to your appeal electronically even if you submitted your appeal to this Office via regular U.S. Mail.

We will notify you of the decision on your appeal as soon as we can. If you have any questions about the status of your appeal, you may contact me at the number above. If you have submitted your appeal through this Office's online electronic appeal portal, you may also obtain an update on the status of your appeal by logging into your portal account.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Jones
Supervisory Administrative Specialist