

**REMARKS FOR THE HONORABLE IKE SKELTON
PRESS CONFERENCE FOR RELEASE OF A DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL SECURITY
STRATEGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
15 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Thank you, Steny. I'd first like to commend you for your leadership in drafting this document. I agree completely that significant national security issues are facing our nation now and will continue to challenge us in the coming years. As Democrats we have long had forward-looking ideas for addressing these concerns, and this document is a strategic compilation of those plans.

We have the finest military the world has known. Yet it is a military under enormous strain. Our military has over 140,000 forces deployed in Iraq and close to 70,000 committed to the recovery effort along the Gulf coast. There are more in Afghanistan and in other fronts in the war on terror. The challenges of the last four years are not going away. Global terrorism remains a threat to this nation and many others. Countering this threat is going to require a comprehensive strategy that addresses the sources of terrorism and that strengthens our partnerships around the world.

Strategically we know that military force is not the solution for every problem, but our military strength helps us avoid some conflicts and prevail in the ones we must fight. We must ensure that we retain the world's strongest military. And right now we risk breaking our force because of the repeated deployments of our Army and Marines—particularly the Army National Guard and Reserve forces.

We need a permanent increase in end-strength which this document calls for and we need creative ways of enticing service and retention. This may mean more bonuses or it may mean shorter enlistment times. Our forces need the best equipment and continued investments in modernized weapons systems to be sure, but if we don't invest in our people, we will not be able to keep America secure in this decade or those to come.

Again I thank the Whip for his leadership and my colleagues for their partnership.

Remarks for Democratic National Security Strategy Press Conference
Congresswoman Jane Harman
September 15, 2005
(As prepared)

I want to salute our Democratic Whip, Steny Hoyer, and my other colleagues for putting forward this set of careful, balanced proposals to ensure America's strength and security.

Protecting America, in war and in peace, has been a bedrock principle of the Democratic Party since World War I. From Wilson, to Roosevelt, to Truman and Kennedy and beyond, Democrats have led America with strong, robust national security policies.

It's time to reclaim that tradition.

Four years ago, in the aftermath of 9/11, America launched a successful military invasion of Afghanistan to drive out al Qaida. That was the right approach.

But the threat has now changed. It is no longer a centralized, top-down terrorist group. It is a loose network of like-minded groups who draw inspiration from Bin Ladin.

As the New York Times magazine put it this past Sunday, the threat is no longer Al Qaida per se, but Al Qaida-ism ... a virulent strand of radical Islam that is competing with moderates in the Muslim world ... for the hearts and minds of the next generation.

Defeating this virulent strain requires more than just military power – although military power is indispensable.

Some have described this as a choice between soft power and hard power. I prefer to call it, as Joe Nye now does, our “smart power.”

Democrats believe in using every ounce of our smart power to protect the American people – our diplomatic power, our economic power, and most of all, our moral power.

Let me focus on one source of our power – intelligence. Intelligence is the tip of the spear in this era of terror.

Intelligence is vital to understanding the insurgency in Iraq (which we don't yet understand) ... the threat posted by Iran and North Korea (which we don't fully know) ... and the plans and intentions of terror groups around the world.

We've had 2 massive intelligence failures in the past 4 years. The first was on 9/11. The second was on Iraq's WMD programs.

As this paper argues, we need more accurate, more actionable, and more timely intelligence to disrupt our enemies before they attack.

The nightmare scenario – which I fear we are not prepared for – is that terrorists will get their hands on a Weapon of Mass Destruction and smuggle it into this country. To stop such a plot, we need actionable intelligence.

How do we do that?

I'm proud that the integration of the intelligence community under a single unified commander – the Director of National Intelligence – was a Democratic idea. The 9 Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee drafted the legislation that became the basis for this critical reform. Same for the establishment of a National Counterterrorism Center.

But more – much more -- must be done.

We need to recruit and train intelligence officers who speak the languages to penetrate the hard targets. The problem is – if you are a patriotic American but you have a grandma in Baghdad, you can't get a security clearance. That's why we are urging a multi-tier security clearance system . . . so that we can leverage America's diversity into its greatest strength.

We must produce better analysis . . . so that we don't miss critical clues, as we did on 9/11, or lunge for the wrong conclusions, as we did in Iraq.

And we must end the dangerous practice of paying for counterterrorism with these huge supplemental budgets that the Administration puts forward. This practice prevents Congressional oversight, and it hinders the ability of our intelligence officers to plan operations.

Let me conclude by saying this. My fear is that the terrorists are already here. This month, a terror cell was rolled up in my home city of Los Angeles. Their plot was to attack military recruiting centers and Jewish sites. It was hatched not in Khandahar but in a California State Prison.

As our friends the British found out with tragic consequences in July, the next threat may be homegrown. It may literally come from the boy – or the girl – next door.

If we are going to protect America, we must disrupt the plotters before they attack. Democrats are 100% committed to doing this . . . in a strategic way.

The major lesson from Katrina is that, as a nation, we have adequate capacity, but we have an inadequate strategy. We have the airplanes, the trucks, and busses to get relief to the field . . . but we didn't have a plan to make it happen and protect our people.

Wherever I travel in the world, I thank the men and women who stand on the front lines taking huge risks to defend our freedom . . . whether they wear an American uniform, or, in some cases, are undercover.

We owe it to them to put forward a strong, sensible, centrist national security policy agenda. This plan does just that.

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Spratt Statement at News Conference on Democratic National Security Strategy

WASHINGTON – The following is a transcript of remarks by U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) at a news conference yesterday on a Democratic national security strategy. The transcript is by CQ Transcriptions, Inc.

“Thanks, Steny. Thanks for initiating this project and also for steering us toward a statement of a national security strategy. We're Democrats, all of us, and proud of our tradition in world affairs from Woodrow Wilson to William Jefferson Clinton.

“I am a South Carolinian. I proudly remember the words of another South Carolinian, Jimmy Byrnes at the National Press Club in 1944, as victory seemed imminent in World War II. Byrnes didn't go the press club to gloat or to brag or to boast. He stood solemnly and said, "We can nobly gain or meanly lose the hopes of the world" -- "We can nobly gain or meanly lose the hopes of the world."

“Our nation's security stands today at very much the same juncture. During the last presidential election, President Bush and Senator Kerry agreed at least on one thing: that the gravest threat facing us is the threat of nuclear weapons in the arms or hands of terrorists.

“Well, the terrorists who struck us on 9/11 lacked these weapons, to the best of our knowledge. They didn't have nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. But they didn't lack the malevolence to use them.

“Today, as we look at New Orleans and the whole Gulf Coast incredulously, we can't believe the devastation we see, devastation caused by a natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina, but a crude nuclear weapon, if it goes critical, could do damage hundreds, even thousands of times worse. This is no idle threat.

“Osama bin Laden has called Al Qaida's acquisition of WMDs nothing less than a religious obligation.

“So we're in another arms race today. They race to acquire these weapons, and I race to stop them. Our national security is based on the premise that the United States should do everything -- everything we can -- to avert such a catastrophe on the fastest possible timetable.

“Graham Ellison (ph) in his recent book has advised us this is not a case where one can do too much. But we can do too little, and the Bush administration has come close to doing just that. It has requested less funding for non-proliferation in 2006 than we were spending in 2001.

“Republicans in Congress repeatedly have voted against and even blocked consideration of our initiative to increase funding for nonproliferation. We don't even get the item to vote upon in the well of the House.

“In the meantime, North Korea claims to have developed six to eight nuclear weapons. Iran is well on its way to making fissile materials. And research reactors around the world in at least 25 countries house nuclear materials that are secured in many cases by no more than a dog and a chain-link fence.

“The good news is this is a preventable catastrophe -- that was the title of Graham Allison's book. And we have plenty of tools in our kit, if we choose to use them. As part of our strategy, we've singled out several.

“First of all -- this is very mundane, but it's very basic -- and that is accounting for all nuclear materials, particularly in Russia and the United States, but everywhere else in the world as well. Accounting for them rigorously, and accounting in particular for the nuclear components of tactical nuclear weapons which so far have been overlooked in the quest to remove the SS-18s and the really big and devastating nuclear weapons.

“But the tactical nuclear weapons are ideally adapted to terrorist application. We need to know where they are, and we need to secure all these nuclear materials and all of the weapon components.

The president says we can do this, and his timetable is 12 to 13 years. We say that's too long. We say we can do it in four years.

“Second point: We think we should at least double, maybe triple the funding for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, better known as Nunn-Lugar, and other nonproliferation programs. Nunn-Lugar, as you all know, is the flagship, so to speak, of our nonproliferation efforts. But the president's budget provides \$27.6 million less for this program this year than it did on September the 11th, 2001.

“This is a meager, halfhearted commitment to a program that's supposed to counter the gravest threat we face. Democrats know that we should be spending

substantially more on Nunn-Lugar, not less, and we'll bend every effort to see that that happens.

“Third point: We need to remove a significant number of our nuclear weapons from a hair-trigger alert. Accidents and mistakes of all kinds are still possible, and we need a greater margin of security -- and we can afford it -- to prevent this threat, this risk.

“Fourth point: Targeting rogue states that traffic in weapons of mass destruction. We need nothing less than new alliances and a new division of labor among our allies to make sure that Iran and North Korea stop their nuclear programs, stop them where they are, and disavow, verifiably, any sale of nuclear material to terrorists.

“Fifth point: We need to lead the world away from nuclear weapons by taking steps to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty. And before I say specifically how, let me say we also need to embrace the philosophy that we, ourselves, are moving away from nuclear weapons except as a system of last resort, not a weapon with tactical utility, not something we would use early in an engagement, because we can't move the world in one direction while we, ourselves, move in a different direction.

“The war on terror is not a war that we can fight alone. We have to have allies. We have to have collegiality and cooperation. And the United States as part of that effort should attempt to move the world away from nuclear weapons by negotiating a fissile material cutoff treaty which would help prevent these nuclear materials, these fissile materials, from falling into the wrong hands.

“And we should continue the moratorium on nuclear testing. And we should clarify that a country simply cannot leave the NPT, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and remain the nuclear materials it was given for peaceful purposes.

“The strategy that we present today is a road map, we believe, to a more secure America. It's achievable; it's affordable; it serves our highest duty, to protect the American people and keep America strong, and to do so, in part, by keeping the world's most dangerous weapons out of the world's most dangerous hands.”

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Ensuring America's Strength and Security
Remarks by Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher

“Thank you, Whip Hoyer.

“I’m Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher from California’s Tenth Congressional District. I’m honored to join the brightest national security minds in the country here today.

“I’ve long sought solutions to relieve our overstretched military and I’m pleased that our Democratic National Security Strategy addresses this important issue.

“Our armed services are the finest fighting force known around the globe. We have 300,000 active-duty U.S. servicemen and women, and 40,000 Army Guard and Reserve currently serving in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan.

“They are overstretched and overburdened. They’re routinely deployed for back-to-back rotations, and stop-loss orders extend their stays. I know soldiers who have seen multiple tours—and if they serve and survive—they’re told to turn around and head back into combat. The Army National Guard—the cornerstone of U.S. forces in Iraq—missed recruiting goals for the **ninth** straight month. Five of six reserve components failed to meet at least some recruiting goals in the last several months. Fundamentally, the Pentagon is trying to fight a war with the same size of military it had **before** the war.

“These conditions threaten to break our all-volunteer force. They impair our homeland security efforts; they stretch us extra thin during domestic disasters like Katrina; and they diminish our ability to meet threats around the globe.

“For the third straight Congress, I have introduced the **only** legislation in the House to increase the size of the military. I am joined by Sens. Lieberman, Clinton, and Reed on bill to increase the size of the Army to 582,000. Our Democratic National Security Strategy endorses that proposal.

“Increasing the size of the military is essential. This step will reduce burdens on men and women who sacrifice their time, livelihood, and families. It will also help us keep our promise to soldiers and their families.

“Even some of our Republican colleagues have supported endstrength increases, but President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld refuse to listen. They fail to recognize the strains on our military and the need to fix them now.

“Democrats want what is best for this country—and our military. We have a better plan to solve the pressures put on our military—I hope Congress will heed our calls. Thank you.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2005

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**CONGRESSMAN DAVIS, DEMOCRATS, ADVOCATE
FOR STRONGER NATIONAL SECURITY**

- Hoyer, Davis, and Harman unveil plan to strengthen defense against man and nature -

WASHINGTON – Following are excerpts from remarks offered today by U.S. Representative Artur Davis (AL7) during an event highlighting the House Democrat plan for establishing and exerting a strong defense. Davis joined House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (MD5), Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Jane Harman (CA36), and other Democrats in offering a sound plan for defending American against all level of threats.

Davis' comments focus on the deficiencies in our national defense and response structure revealed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"To preserve a unique set of American values requires a strong competent defense..."

"The Democratic party understands the power of strength -- and the need for a strong effective structure at home"

"We have a vision for a stronger America... We cannot build a great nation on the back of a weak, discredited government."

"We learned on the Gulf Coast what happens when we weaken and stretch thin our resources at home. We as Democrats understand that our capacity to absorb natural threats is another component of our preparedness, and the incompetent federal response to Katrina underscores that fact."



U.S. Representative Allyson Y. Schwartz
Representing the 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2005

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Rep. Allyson Y. Schwartz Joins House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer in Calling for Aggressive National Security Strategy

Washington, D.C. - Earlier today, U.S. Representative Allyson Y. Schwarz joined House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer and other top Democratic House members in releasing a plan calling for an aggressive national security strategy.

"Protecting and defending our homeland is our top priority. We must forward with an aggressive and integrated strategy to ensure America's security and safety," said Schwartz.

The plan, "Ensuring America's Strength and Security: A Democratic National Security Strategy for the 21st Century," outlines a strategic approach for key areas of national security, including strengthening America's military, defeating global terrorism, and combating nuclear proliferation.

"I, like my colleagues I stood with today, believe that we must be smarter and more strategic in our military and security efforts to protect and defend our nation," said Representative Schwartz.

Schwartz highlighted several critical areas of the plan's strategy:

"We must strengthen our military through both people and advanced weapon systems to ensure that it is effective in fighting 21st century enemies."

"We must target the broader network of terrorist groups intent on attacking Americans and others - including taking action to capture or kill terrorists."

"We need to be aggressive in combating nuclear proliferation, including targeting rogue states that traffic in weapons of mass destruction.

Schwartz added, "Homeland security investments must be based on risk analysis to ensure that not only are public dollars being spent effectively and strategically, that they are used to combat the greatest threats."

Other top Democrats attending the press conference included, Armed Services Committee Ranking Democrat Ike Skelton, Intelligence Committee Ranking Democrat Jane Harman, Sr. Armed Services Committee Member John Spratt, Armed Services Committee Member Ellen Tauscher.