



COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION AND TERRORISM

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Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism Holds First Session

Washington, D.C., May 29, 2008 - Both George W. Bush and John Kerry called nuclear terrorism the single greatest threat to U.S. national security during their first televised debate in 2004. Today, WMD terrorism remains a grave threat. As the most recent State Department Country Report on Terrorism concluded, "The potential threat of terrorists acquiring and using WMD poses one of the greatest security challenges facing the United States and our international partners today."

The Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism - the independent Congressional commission announced last week by majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate - held its first meeting today. Established by House Resolution 1 to implement a key recommendation of the independent, bipartisan 9/11 Commission, the WMD Commission is charged with assessing current activities, initiatives, and programs aimed at preventing weapons of mass destruction proliferation and terrorism; and providing a clear and comprehensive strategy and concrete recommendations for such activities, initiatives, and programs. The Commission plans to issue its final report this fall.

Former Florida Senator Bob Graham, who chairs the Commission, said the group used the first meeting to develop a framework for how they would do their work and also prioritized "the many important issues we'll be facing." "We have a broad mandate," Graham said, "but the urgency of these issues requires us to work as quickly as possible so that the next Administration and Congress have actionable recommendations at their finger tips."

In addition to Graham, the nine member bi-partisan commission includes former Missouri Senator Jim Talent, serving as vice-chair, along with: former Congressman Timothy Roemer (President, Center for National Policy), Ambassador Wendy Sherman (Principal, The Albright Group LLC), Dr. Graham Allison (Director, Harvard University Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs), Richard Verma (Partner, Steptoe & Johnson, LLP), Henry Sokolski (Executive Director, Nonproliferation Policy Education Center), Stephen Rademaker (Senior Counsel, BGR Holding, LLC), and Robin Cleveland, (Principal, Olivet Consulting, LLC).

"The possibility of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack on our homeland is one of our nation's greatest national security threats," said Senator Talent. "I have great



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confidence in the commitment of our members and our ability to provide the answers necessary to better protect the American people."

The Commission members - who will also look at the roles, missions, and structures of relevant government departments and agencies, the United States' commitments to international regimes, and the threat of weapons of mass destruction proliferation to the United States and its allies - confirmed their commitment to develop an accurate picture of the government's current capability to prevent WMD terrorism and provide meaningful recommendations to improve our national security. The legislation requires the Commission to issue a report within 180 days.

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