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Conyers Introduces Resolution of Inquiry calling for the Immediate Release of Unclassified Versions of the April 2006 NIE and Other Iraq Intelligence Reports

Congressman John Conyers, ranking member of House Judiciary Committee, released the following statement concerning his introduction of a Resolution of Inquiry calling for the release of the unclassified version of the April 2006 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) and other pending intelligence reports.

Over the weekend, the media reported that American intelligence agencies completed a NIE finding that the Iraq war has increased the danger of terrorism against the United States. This is significant because the NIE represents the consensus judgment of the entire U.S. intelligence community and is approved by John D. Negroponte, the Director of National Intelligence.

According to media reports, the intelligence agencies conclude Islamic radicalism "has metastasized and spread across the globe." This conclusion raises considerable questions about President Bush's public statements that the war in Iraq has made us safer.

Media accounts today further indicate that the Administration has an additional classified intelligence community report that gives a grim assessment of the situation in Iraq. Some have expressed concern that release of this second NIE is being slowed by the Administration to avoid discussion before the November elections.

In order to inform the public more fully regarding the impact of the occupation in Iraq on terrorism, I am introducing a Resolution of Inquiry that would call for the immediate release of the unclassified versions of both the April NIE as well as the other pending report on Iraq. While President Bush has indicated his intent to release the April 2006 NIE, it is important that both NIEs be released and that Members of Congress formally go down on record as requesting their release.

The American people deserve to know the whole truth about the impact

of the war in Iraq on the global war on terrorism. If what has been reported is correct, these Intelligence Estimates indicate that the Iraq war is part and parcel of this Administration's failed national security record, and has made us less safe from terrorist attacks.

Some have disputed that this is what these materials indicate. That dispute of fact is easily resolved by putting all of the cards on the table and letting the American people be the judge. That is the purpose of this Resolution.

Under House Rules, Resolutions of Inquiry are considered privileged and must be voted on by the Members of Congress.

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