

October 7, 2001 4:20 PM

TO: Vice President Richard B. Cheney
Honorable Colin Powell
Honorable George Tenet
Honorable Condoleezza Rice

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

SUBJECT: Declaratory Policy

Attached are two documents.

The first is a paper that apparently was sent by John McLaughlin to the NSC on the subject of declaratory policy, which I was asked by Steve Hadley to deliver in my press conference on Sunday.

The second is a paper that I hastily drafted as a revision of the McLaughlin proposal, to see what it might look like. I decided not to deliver it.

I declined to deliver it because I feel strongly that this is an important subject that merits the attention of the President and his senior advisors. I do not think I or anyone else ought to be issuing declaratory policy until we have discussed it and given careful consideration to what we think we want to recommend we say to certain individuals privately and/or publicly, and the President has made a decision.

Specifically, I think we need to have a clear understanding of what the United States is prepared to do to back up any threats or declaratory policy we might issue. I am reluctant to make commitments on behalf of the country unless I know that our country fully intends to fulfill those commitments and declarations.

I suggest we discuss this at the NSC meeting on Monday morning, October 8.

Attach.
McLaughlin letter, SecDef draft