

October 22, 2004

TO: Honorable Andrew H. Card, Jr.  
Dr. Condoleezza Rice

c c : Vice President Richard B. Cheney

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld



SUBJECT: Possible Talking Points

Attached are some thoughts on how the White House might want to talk about the Myers letter.

Again, Andy, my apologies that I did not give you a heads up this morning.

Attach.  
Draft statement on NID

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General Myers has consistently provided advice to the President along the lines of his recent letter to Congressman Duncan Hunter, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. General Myers was asked by Chairman Hunter to provide his opinion on intelligence reform in writing. It has consistently been the position of the President's administration that when the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is asked his opinion by Congress, that he should provide his honest advice. The President respects that.

General Myers is right in his view that nothing should intrude on the integrity of the chain of command. The President has emphasized that that is his view and that principle was reflected in the legislation sent up by the President on September 16, 2004 on page 14, section 4(k)(b)(2), which says, in part:

“The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the National Intelligence Director, shall--(1) ensure that the agencies and organizations of the Intelligence Community within the Department of Defense adequately satisfy the overall intelligence needs of the Department of Defense, including the needs of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commanders of the unified and specified commands and, wherever such agencies and organizations are performing Government wide functions, the needs of other departments and agencies;”



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The President believes that the intelligence reform legislation now being worked on in Conference can address this issue in a constructive way. As the President has indicated, he is seeking a bill that adheres to the important principle of respecting the chain of command and also gives full budget authority to the NID. These principles touch on a variety of aspects of the relationships, including personnel, budget authority, and management accountability. The details on such matters could probably best be left to be worked out by the Executive Branch in consultation with Congress, given their importance and their complexity. The President expects that any bill that comes forward for his signature will provide the NID full budget authority, while respecting the chain of command.

General Myers supports intelligence reform, including the NID and the NCTC, and the President would not want a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who did not have views on such important matters and a willingness to express them.

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