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**Unclassified Statement for the Record
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence**



Randall M. Fort

**Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of Intelligence and Research**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

I am pleased to have the opportunity today to present the views of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research on current and projected threats to the United States. As Ambassador Negroponete has noted, the Intelligence Community is acutely aware of, and there is a broad IC consensus about, the dynamic nature of threats to US interests. And INR generally shares the judgments presented by my IC colleagues.

Therefore, rather than revisit the assessments already stated, I would like to explain how INR, as the State Department's in-house intelligence unit, supports the Secretary of State and department principals by acting as what I would call an intelligence force multiplier, identifying, assessing, and explaining the significance and relevance of threats that could jeopardize US diplomatic and foreign policy interests.

As the DNI stated, it is essential that the IC has in-depth, comprehensive global coverage to identify and understand the threats we face. At the same time, the difficulties inherent in anticipating rapid and unexpected changes within global financial markets and the technology sector, for example, pose potential challenges to our defense and foreign policy establishments.

In recognition of the urgency of these new challenges, Secretary of State Rice has established Transformational Diplomacy as one of the engines of our foreign policy. The aim of this new approach is to re-fashion traditional diplomatic institutions and practices to serve new diplomatic purposes. Changing the world, not merely reporting on it, is the operative essence of Transformational Diplomacy.

The Secretary's new initiative underscores the pivotal role diplomacy plays in anticipating, understanding and countering real and potential threats to vital US interests. INR's mandate is to provide the timely, accurate and actionable intelligence analysis necessary to enable US diplomacy to

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confront and address those threats and challenges, and we are uniquely placed to do so.

It is critical that our diplomats receive intelligence and analytic support that both informs current operations and looks beyond the horizon at broader strategic dynamics, such as the effects of our democratization efforts – a key element in Transformational Diplomacy -- on regional political stability. INR seeks to identify threats, challenges, and opportunities at an early stage to provide policymakers time to take appropriate action.

In sum, the complexities of the world in which we live have blurred traditionally discrete lines among security interests, development efforts, economic objectives, and other traditional areas of diplomatic and analytic endeavor. Consequently, INR, and the Department of State are repositioning resources to focus on and support Transformational Diplomacy.

For example, the Department aims both to increase US diplomatic presence in more remote locations and prepare to react to a wide variety of humanitarian crises, including refugee flows, pandemics, and natural disasters. Naturally, INR must be ready to respond at a moment's notice and provide the intelligence support necessary to address those challenges.

Yet in an era of almost instant global awareness, the impact of our actions in one area can now be felt, or at least perceived, almost immediately elsewhere. Thus, analytical intelligence support is critical to an accurate understanding of the environment in which diplomatic initiatives are undertaken. INR is working within the Department and with our Embassies and smaller posts abroad to help policymakers both anticipate emergent crises and understand their long-term repercussions.

INR's Humanitarian Information Unit (HIU), for example, shares broadly unclassified information via a web-based platform to facilitate coordination between US government civilian and military resources and private sector humanitarian response groups. The HIU is an excellent example of an open source intelligence force multiplier.

An informed understanding of the perceptions of US policies and actions on the part of foreign publics and governments is prerequisite both to deciphering and comprehending the nature of the global environment, including potential and actual threats. Such knowledge is also critical to anticipating potential reactions to our policy initiatives and receptivity to offers of assistance generally and in crisis situations.

To that end, INR conducts public opinion polling and focus group surveys throughout the world in order to gauge how US policies are perceived, as well as how individuals in key countries perceive the role and behavior of

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their own governments. The sharper our understanding of the forces that drive those perceptions, the better prepared we will be to anticipate emergent threats.

The cross-cutting nature of the threats and challenges we face—especially from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction (WMD)—requires a fresh emphasis on understanding the intentions, and managing the behavior, of terror groups and related transnational actors. Regional cooperation is thus a key element of our counterterrorism strategy. Yet there are times when economic, political, and cultural barriers complicate or impede the cooperation we seek.

Comprehensive, accurate intelligence analysis is needed to support policymakers in this regard, not only by identifying the threats, but also by ensuring a full understanding of the strengths, weaknesses, and perceptions of partners or potential partners so that policy is devised with the best information available.

Even as we seek to understand the terrorism threats faced by our allies, we must also remain vigilant to emerging trends, not only to identify threats, but to assist in identifying new potential partners and their strengths and weaknesses.

INR prepares the annual all-source assessment of state sponsorship of terrorism that serves as the evidentiary base for the Secretary's determination regarding which states are publicly designated as state sponsors or as not-fully-cooperating with US Government counterterrorism measures. The State Sponsor's list thereby becomes a useful diplomatic tool for building and maintaining the counterterrorism coalition.

The threat posed by failed states points to the critical intersections of diplomacy, democracy promotion, economic reconstruction, and military security. And INR analysts routinely monitor local and regional political dynamics, economic and financial developments, and shifts in military operations, doctrine and thinking. Deep analytic expertise is required to confidently tease apart and make sense of seemingly unrelated trends and anomalies in these areas, even if our policy colleagues might not wish to hear about them.

To focus our perspectives and encourage analysts to look beyond immediately recognizable trends, INR publishes a quarterly report on global hotspots designed to alert the Secretary of State and other interested policymakers to potentially troublesome trends that we have detected.

Our focus is on areas that may have received only limited policy attention, but where significant threats may emerge in the future. The aim is to

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identify areas where diplomatic action could make a difference, either by shifting the direction of a trend to forestall a threat from manifesting, or by enabling actions that could mitigate the impact of a crisis. In our first report published in early November 2006, the issues raised ranged from repercussions of electoral fallout in Mexico to concerns over political violence in Bangladesh and friction between Russia and Georgia. Policymakers were pleased with the product.

In conclusion, I believe INR's abiding challenge will be not only to maintain our vigilant watch over those threats that we know present a clear danger to US interests; going forward, we must also strive to think, analyze and write strategically in order to identify the challenges and opportunities arising from the complex and dynamic global environment. Thank you very much.