

LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ON
PREVENTING TERRORISM**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share the following letter that I have sent to President Obama urging him to implement several bipartisan proposals that would strengthen our national security. These proposals include bringing back the co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission for a 6-month period to review the implementation of the commission's recommendations and creating a "Team B" of experts outside of government to review our counterterrorism strategy.

In light of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's report of the 14 "points of failure" with regard to the attempted Christmas Day bombing, it is disappointing that the administration has not adopted these proposals that would make our country safer.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2010.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Yesterday, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) released an unclassified summary of its report on the attempted terrorist attack on Christmas Day. In reviewing the report's conclusions, including the 14 specific "points of failure" in U.S. intelligence prior to the attack, it occurred to me that many of these "points of failure" could have been prevented through greater outside review of our national counterterrorism operations and strategy.

As you know, over the last five months I have repeatedly urged your administration to adopt four bipartisan proposals that would strengthen our national security. These ideas include bringing back the co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission for a six-month review, making the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) administrator a set 10-year term to bring greater stability and expertise to the agency, collocating the new High Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) at the National Counterterrorism Center, and creating a "Team B" of outside counterterrorism experts to review and challenge our strategy and assumptions across the intelligence community.

In reviewing the 14 "points of failure" identified in the SSCI report, I believe many of the operational missteps could have been prevented if the co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission—former Rep. Lee Hamilton and former Gov. Thomas Kean—had been able to conduct a 6-month review of the implementation of the commission's original recommendations. Specifically, I believe that points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, listed in the enclosed report could have been mitigated by a follow-up review of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

Additionally, I believe that points 7 and 14, "Intelligence Analysts Were Primarily Focused on Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) Threats to U.S. Interests in Yemen, Rather than on Potential AQAP Threats to the U.S. Homeland," could have been mitigated if a "Team B" of outside experts had been able to challenge institutionalized assumptions throughout the intelligence community. The team would represent a "new approach to counterterrorism" which focuses not just on connecting the dots of intel-

ligence, but which seeks to stay a step ahead in understanding how to break the radicalization and recruitment cycle that sustains our enemy, how to disrupt their network globally and how to strategically isolate them.

Last month, I wrote you to share a recent article from respected Georgetown University professor Bruce Hoffman, who endorses the "Team B" approach. He said, "One important yet currently languishing congressional initiative that would help counter this strategy is Representative Frank Wolf's proposal to institutionalize a 'red team' or 'Team B' counterterrorist capability as an essential element of our efforts to combat terrorism and in the war against al-Qaeda." I believe that, in light of the SSCI report, such an approach is needed now more than ever.

Although we now have the benefit of hindsight, it is critical that we take the lessons from the failed attack and implement measures to further review our counterterrorism processes and strategy. It is inexcusable that we would not draw on these valuable outside experts' wisdom to strengthen our homeland and ensure that these mistakes are not repeated.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 210 ANNUAL APPRENTICE GRADUATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 4, 2010, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2010 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at Tiebel's Restaurant in Schererville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2010 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed their apprentice training in 2010 are: Jonathan Banaszak, Matthew Czarnecki, Bernard Jewett, Kevin Kuzma, Bryan Lain, William Linebaugh, Roy Swearingin, Jeremy VanHoose, and Dustin Weber.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SALVATION
ARMY SERVING SACRAMENTO
FOR 125 YEARS**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Salvation Army, and to honor its 125th anniversary in the Sacramento region today on May 19, 2010.

The founder and first general of the Salvation Army, William Booth, was born in economic and spiritual poverty, yet he founded a worldwide organization dedicated to their eradication—an organization that now serves the neediest of the needy in 120 countries.

In 1865, the Salvation Army began in the East Side of London, and several years later General Booth sent a few of his followers to establish army roots in America.

In 1885, Major Alfred Wells arrived in Sacramento with the determination to follow the lead of General Booth by ministering to anyone in need. Back then, there were many families and individuals looking for work, looking for food and looking for hope. Fast forward to the present time—125 years later—and the Salvation Army is still in Sacramento, still reaching out to people who need assistance with jobs, food, and of course, hope.

Today, on May 19, 2010, the Salvation Army marks 125 years of service to Sacramento. As they look to the future, they know times may become even more challenging. And yet, they are ready to accept that challenge. Nothing will deter the Salvation Army from continuing its service to the Sacramento community.

Over the years as the needs of the Sacramento region have changed, the army's programs in Sacramento have reflected those needs. There have been shelter programs for men, women, and families; rehabilitation programs for those overcoming alcohol or drug problems; programs for emergency and disaster response, and disaster preparedness training; programs providing sports leagues, youth activities, tutoring, and child development centers, and many more.

Now, I thank the Salvation Army—on behalf of our community—as it continues its legacy in the Sacramento region.

TRIBUTE TO MUFTIAH MCCARTIN

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, over the last several months several of our colleagues have announced they plan to retire from Congress and in a few months some may not return to us due to the workings of our democracy. All of their departures will, in some way or another, impact this body—the peoples' House.

But there will be one loss this year that will be felt most by the members and staff on both sides of the aisle—that of Muftiah McCartin. Now Muftiah's name may not be well known to the people who live in our districts, but I would