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House of Representatives

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005—Continued

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 686, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, President Bush told the Nation, "You can't distinguish between al Qaeda and Saddam." That assertion was one of the key justifications for the war in Iraq.

At the appropriate point in the debate, I shall enter into the RECORD 16 similar assertions by leading members of the administration and several other relevant documents.

Those assertions have, like the White House's other claim that Saddam Hussein had vast stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, not found substantiation in fact. I quote 27 top-level U.S. diplomats and military commanders who have said, "The administration . . . justified the invasion of Iraq . . . by a cynical campaign to persuade the public that Saddam Hussein was linked to al Qaeda . . . The evidence did not support this argument."

One week ago, the 9-11 Commission published staff statement number 15 entitled "Overview of the Enemy," which found no credible evidence of a collaborative relationship between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. The staff statement was the product of professional people, all of whom were jointly appointed by both the Republican chairman and the Democratic vice chair of the Commission. Included among these staff people are former analysts with the intelligence agencies, investigators and academics.

Instead of accepting the finding of this Commission, which Congress and the President established in order to find the definitive answer to this and

other questions, the Vice President went on national television to question the credibility of the Commission. He repeated the assertion that the administration has made so many times, and he said he "probably" has more information than the Commission about ties between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein.

Does the administration have more information than the Commission, or does it not? Is the White House informing the public of substantiated facts, or is the White House engaged in what could be called a cynical campaign to disinform the American public?

As the St. Petersburg Times editorial of yesterday stated, "We don't know what information the Vice President is referring to, but we do know this: Every important public charge that the White House and its supporters did make against Iraq in the months leading up to war, such as the purchase of nuclear weapons materials from Africa, meetings between al Qaeda and Iraqi operatives in Prague, and mobile biological weapons labs in the Iraqi desert, have been discredited . . . The bipartisan Commission's credibility isn't in question. The administration's is. That is the most important reason for the Vice President to come forward and produce the evidence he alluded to." That is the question the Kucinich-Tauscher amendment seeks to answer.

SUBMISSION BY DENNIS J. KUCINICH IN SUPPORT OF THE KUCINICH/TAUSCHER AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4548, JUNE 23, 2004

The Kucinich/Tauscher amendment has been endorsed by:

Admiral Stansfield Turner, former DCI 1977-1981;

Greg Thielmann, former State Department Intelligence official;

Coleen Rowley, in her personal capacity, former FBI official;

Ray McGovern, former CIA analyst;

Gene Betit, former Army Intelligence official;

Ray Close, former CIA chief of station, Saudi Arabia;

David MacMichael, former National Intelligence Council analyst;

Mel Goodman, professor at National War College;

Col. Patrick Lang, retired U.S. Army Special Forces; Defense Intelligence Officer for the Middle East, at DIA;

Larry Johnson, former CIA and State Department intelligence analyst;

Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPs), Steering Committee; Center for American Progress.

These are just 16 of the many assertions by members of the Administration about the existence of a collaborative, operational relationship between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda.

"You can't distinguish between al-Qaeda and Saddam." President George Bush, White House website (9/26/2002).

"He's a threat because he is dealing with al Qaeda." President George Bush, President Outlines Priorities, White House (11/7/2002).

"Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of al Qaeda. Secretly, and without fingerprints, he could provide one of his hidden weapons to terrorists, or help develop their own. . . . Imagine those 19 hijackers with other weapons and other planes—this time armed by Saddam Hussein. It would take one vial, one canister, one crate slipped into this country to bring a day of horror like none we have ever known." President George Bush, President Delivers "State of the Union", White House (1/28/2003).

"Saddam Hussein has longstanding, direct and continuing ties to terrorist networks. . . . Iraq has also provided al Qaeda with chemical and biological weapons training," President George Bush, President's Radio Address, White House (2/8/2003).

"We've removed an ally of al Qaeda, and cut off a source of terrorist funding," President George Bush, President Bush Announces Major Combat Operations in Iraq Have Ended, White House (5/1/2003).

"[Iraq] had the capacity to make a weapon and then let that weapon fall into the hands of a shadowy terrorist network." President George Bush, Meet the Press (2/8/2004).

"His regime has had high-level contacts with al Qaeda going back a decade and has provided training to al Qaeda terrorists." Vice President Richard Cheney, Remarks by the Vice President at the Air National Guard Senior Leadership Conference, White House (12/2/2002).

"He could decide secretly to provide weapons of mass destruction to terrorists for use

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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