



February 17, 2005

Thomas H. Kean and Lee H. Hamilton, former Chair and Vice Chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9-11 Commission) today released the following statement:

“We applaud President Bush’s nomination of John Negroponte to be the first Director of National Intelligence. Ambassador Negroponte is a highly respected diplomat with a deep understanding of the world. His extraordinary knowledge of foreign policy and intelligence issues will serve him well in his new capacity.

“For the Director of National Intelligence to succeed, he must have the President’s complete confidence and full support. We are encouraged by the President’s statement that Ambassador Negroponte will have full authority to set budgets for the intelligence community.

“We also commend the President on the appointment of Lt. General Michael Hayden as the Deputy DNI.

“The President’s actions today are a step forward in enhancing the security of the American people.

“We again call upon the United States Congress to restructure its own internal mechanisms, so that the legislative branch can be a full partner not only to the President but to Ambassador Negroponte, General Hayden and Secretary Chertoff in safeguarding the security of our nation.”

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