

**FACT SHEET**-- June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005 --**TERRORISM AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION****The Ultimate Threat**

The greatest danger of another catastrophic attack in the United States is if the world's most dangerous terrorists acquire the world's most dangerous weapons.

- Al Qaeda has the intent to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction (WMD) against the United States.
- We do not know if al Qaeda or its affiliates have acquired WMD.
- The casualties resulting from a WMD attack could be in the hundreds of thousands. The damage to our freedoms and our way of life would be devastating.
- Secure all vulnerable nuclear sites in the former Soviet Union and elsewhere. There are over 100 research and power reactors worldwide with enough nuclear material to make a bomb.
- Make "locking down" WMD, especially nuclear materials, the top priority in our relationship with Russia.
- Remove Congressionally-imposed obstacles to critical Nunn-Lugar nuclear security projects, by passing Senator Lugar's S. 313.
- Forge a bipartisan government-wide commitment to secure vulnerable WMD worldwide, to ensure that the nightmare of a nuclear attack on US soil never becomes reality.

We all agree on the reality of the threat. We need to agree on the urgency of the threat, and what we should do about it.

**We can stop nuclear terrorism by preventing access to nuclear materials.** The Nunn-Lugar program is trying to accomplish this goal in the former Soviet Union—but the job is only half done. Today, only 54% of these materials have been secured. At the current rate of expenditure, it will take an estimated 14 years to secure all these nuclear materials.

**We cannot afford to wait. With a maximum effort, we can secure all vulnerable nuclear sites in 4 years or less.** Specifically, we should:

- Strengthen and expand the Nunn-Lugar program, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, and the G8 Global Partnership.

In its final Report, the Commission made the following recommendations regarding terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction:

- **Preventing the proliferation of these weapons warrants a maximum effort on the part of the U.S. government.**
- We need to work with the international community to strengthen counterproliferation efforts.
- We need to expand the Proliferation Security Initiative, which aims to engage international partners to stop trafficking in WMD materials.
- We need to **support the Cooperative Threat Reduction program** (the Nunn-Lugar program), the government's main instrument for securing WMD materials outside the United States.