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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2900

SECDEF HAS SEEN
APR 9 2003

I-03/001692-ISP

INFO MEMO

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

Larry Di Rita
2/9

FOR: ~~Mr. Larry Di Rita~~ SecDef

THRU: David Trachtenberg DT

FROM: Keith Payne KBP

SUBJECT: Secretary's Response to Rep. Tauscher before the HASC, 5 Feb.

- At Tab A is brief background paper regarding the Secretary's response to a question regarding an alleged $1.26 billion dollar program to develop new smaller nuclear weapons.
    - My staff reviewed a broadcast of the hearing and concluded that the Secretary's response to Rep. Tauscher's question on small nuclear weapons was correct.
- At Tab B is the article, which served as a basis for Rep. Tauscher's question. The article claims that the Defense Department declined to comment on the article before the presses rolled on February 3.
    - This claim was based on an E-mail sent to our Public Affairs office late Friday evening (Jan 31) after the desk officer had gone home for the weekend.

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SecDef -
We will get back to Ellen Tauscher and the Committee, but here is more info on your exchange with Cong. Tauscher about small Nukes.

DHR to

Copy

Attachments:
A. Background Paper
B. LA Times article

[redacted]
6 February 2003

SPL ASSISTANT DI RITA	
SR MA CRADDOCK	2/19
MA BUCCI	2/19
EXECSEC WHITMORE	2/19

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Larry Di Rita
2/19

TAB

A

Background Paper on
The Secretary's Response to
Rep. Tauscher's Question on New Small Nuclear Weapons
House Armed Services Committee, 5 February

Background: (*No hearing transcript available yet; only TV broadcast.*)

- During the FY 04 budget hearing before the House Armed Services Committee, the Secretary was asked by Rep. Tauscher about what she alleged is a $1.26-billion DoD program to build the next generation of small nuclear weapons.

- In reply, the Secretary said that he was not familiar with the article or the program that Rep. Tauscher described. She added that it was a DTRA program outlined in a recent *LA Times* article that was based on information posted on DTRA's web site.

- The Secretary said that he was 99% certain that there is no program to build small nuclear warheads, but that some research program might be mentioned in the classified portion of the Nuclear Posture Review.

- He added that he was not aware of any new nuclear weapon development, but he would get back to the Committee on the question. (*AT&L should respond.*)

  - *The Secretary is correct. There is no new nuclear weapon development ongoing today. He did not imply a foreclosure of any future development.*

- The Secretary went on to say that hard deeply buried targets were a very serious problem that needed attention.

Analysis:

- The basis for Rep. Tauscher's question was triggered by the Times article and DTRA's web site containing a contract solicitation for, *Weapons of Mass Destruction – Defeat Technology*.

- The solicitation was aimed at an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations (ACTDs) to improve modeling capability for ground shock against deep underground targets using **conventional** and nuclear weapons.

Modeling, not Weapons

- Only a small portion of the proposed work is aimed at a nuclear ACTD. All the work is being carried out in response to the NPR, programmed under global strike.

- The maximum net amount to the overall **10-year** multi-source WMD defeat contract was $1.26 billion.