



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 24 2014

Case No. F-2012-38774

Ms. Kate Bailey
Judicial Watch
425 Third Street SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Bailey:

I refer to our letter dated December 19, 2013, regarding the release of certain Department of State records under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

We have identified 30 additional documents that are responsive to your request. Of these documents, we have determined that 10 may be released in full, 6 may be released with excisions pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(5) and (b)(6), and 14 must be withheld in full pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(5). An enclosure explains Freedom of Information Act exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. All released material is enclosed.

Review of additional records of the United States Mission to the United Nations is ongoing. We will keep you informed as your case progresses.

If you have any questions, you may contact Department of Justice attorney Robert Prince at (202) 305-3654. Please be sure to refer to the case number, F-2012-38774, and the civil action number, 13-951, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Sheryl L. Walter /sw

Sheryl L. Walter, Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures:
As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
 - 1.4(a) military plans, systems, or operations;
 - 1.4(b) foreign government information;
 - 1.4(c) intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology;
 - 1.4(d) foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources;
 - 1.4(e) scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism;
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities;
 - 1.4(g) vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism;
 - 1.4(h) weapons of mass destruction;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
 - ARMEX Arms Export Control Act, 22 USC 2778(e)
 - CIA Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
 - EXPORT Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 App. USC 241(c)(1)
 - FSA Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4003 & 4004
 - INA Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f)
 - IRAN Iran Claims Settlement Act, Sec. 505, 50 USC 1701, note
- (b)(4) trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) personal privacy information
- (b)(7) law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
 - (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

Randall, James W

From: Tess, Caroline
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 12:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

B6
B5
B5

----- Original Message -----

From: Pan, Michael (USUN)
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 12:08 PM
To: Tess, Caroline
Subject: Fw: [REDACTED]

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: Tess, Caroline
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2012 07:43 PM
To: Ahmed, Salman (USUN); Pelton, Erin; Ryu, Rexon Y; Pan, Michael (USUN); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

B6

Subject: [REDACTED]

B6

B5

Fellow USUN'ers and alumni -

B5

Many thanks, Caroline

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RELEASED IN PART B5

Randall, James W

From: Tess, Caroline
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 4:47 PM
To: Pelton, Erin

B5

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RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

ATT00001.txt

On Sep 30, 2012, at 2:53 PM, Ahmed, Salman (USUN) wrote:

B5

> [REDACTED]
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Joseph Torsella [REDACTED]
> Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 02:48 PM
> To: Ahmed, Salman (USUN)
> Subject: [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]

B6

B5

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20511

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September 28, 2012

**Statement by the Director of Public Affairs for the Director of National Intelligence,
Shawn Turner, on the intelligence related to the terrorist attack on the U.S. Consulate in
Benghazi, Libya**

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on U.S. personnel and facilities in Benghazi, Libya, the Intelligence Community launched a comprehensive effort to determine the circumstances surrounding the assault and to identify the perpetrators. We also reviewed all available intelligence to determine if there might be follow-on attacks against our people or facilities in Libya or elsewhere in the world.

As the Intelligence Community collects and analyzes more information related to the attack, our understanding of the event continues to evolve. In the immediate aftermath, there was information that led us to assess that the attack began spontaneously following protests earlier that day at our embassy in Cairo. We provided that initial assessment to Executive Branch officials and members of Congress, who used that information to discuss the attack publicly and provide updates as they became available. Throughout our investigation we continued to emphasize that information gathered was preliminary and evolving.

As we learned more about the attack, we revised our initial assessment to reflect new information indicating that it was a deliberate and organized terrorist attack carried out by extremists. It remains unclear if any group or person exercised overall command and control of the attack, and if extremist group leaders directed their members to participate. However, we do assess that some of those involved were linked to groups affiliated with, or sympathetic to al-Qa'ida. We continue to make progress, but there remain many unanswered questions. As more information becomes available our analysis will continue to evolve and we will obtain a more complete understanding of the circumstances surrounding the terrorist attack.

We continue to support the ongoing FBI investigation and the State Department review of the Benghazi terrorist attack, providing the full capabilities and resources of the Intelligence Community to those efforts. We also will continue to meet our responsibility to keep Congress fully and currently informed. For its part, the Intelligence Community will continue to follow the information about the tragic events in Benghazi wherever it leads. The President demands and expects that we will do this, as do Congress and the American people. As the Intelligence Community, we owe nothing less than our best efforts in this regard, especially to the families of the four courageous Americans who lost their lives at Benghazi in service of their country.

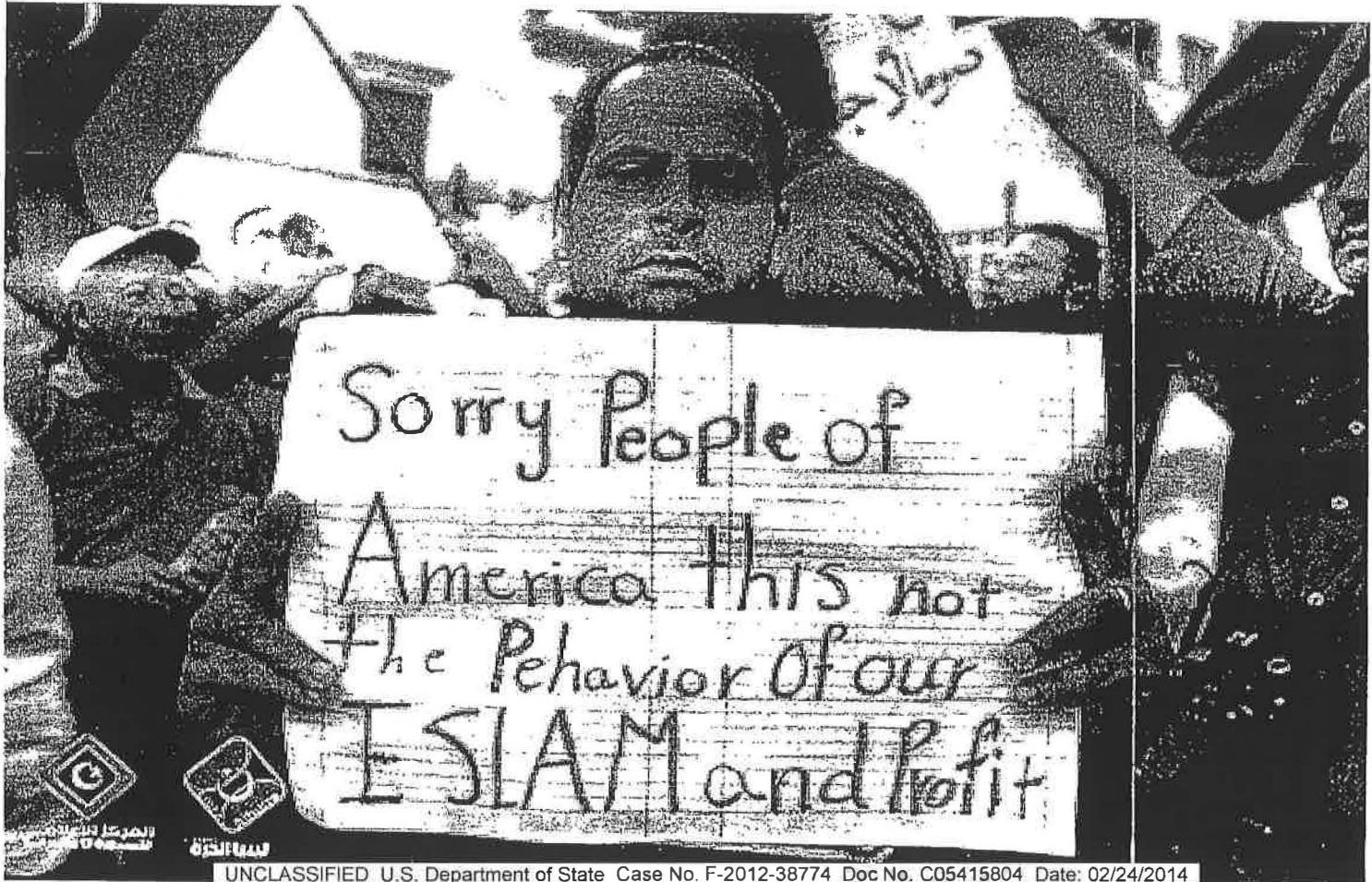
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RELEASED IN FULLExcerpts of 60 Minutes Interview with POTUS (conducted 9/12/2012, will air 9/16/2012)

Q Mr. President, this morning you went out of your way to avoid the use of the word "terrorism" in connection with the Libya attack.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q Do you believe that this was a terrorist attack?

THE PRESIDENT: It's too early to know exactly how this came about, what group was involved, but obviously it was an attack on Americans. And we are going to be working with the Libyan government to make sure that we bring these folks to justice, one way or the other.

Q This has been described as a mob action, but there are reports that they were very heavily armed with grenades. That doesn't sound like your normal demonstration.

THE PRESIDENT: As I said, we're still investigating exactly what happened. I don't want to jump the gun on this. But you're right that this is not a situation that was exactly the same as what happened in Egypt, and my suspicion is, is that there are folks involved in this who were looking to target Americans from the start.

So we're going to make sure that our first priority is to get our folks out safe, make sure that our embassies are secured around the world, and then we are going to go after those folks who carried this out.

Q Can you tell me what kind of weapons the protestors had?

THE PRESIDENT: At this point, I'm going to wait until we've done a full investigation.

Q There have been reports -- obviously this is not the first time that there have been -- there have been attacks on the consulate before. There was an attack against the British ambassador. Do you -- this occurred on September 11th. Can you tell me why the Ambassador was in Benghazi yesterday -- to evaluate security at the embassy -- or at the consulate?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, keep in mind that Chris Stevens is somebody who was one of the first Americans on the ground when we were in the process of saving Benghazi and providing the opportunity for Libyans to create their own democracy. So this is somebody who had been courageous, had been on the ground, had helped to advise me and Secretary Clinton when we were taking our actions against Muammar Qaddafi, and is somebody who was very familiar with the terrain. He was doing the work that he does as a diplomat, helping to shape all policies in the region at a time when things are still fairly fragile.

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But I think it's important to note that we have a Libyan government in place that is fully cooperative, that sees the United States as a friend, that recognizes we played an important role in liberating Libya and providing the Libyan people an opportunity to forge their own destiny. And in fact, we had Libyans who helped protect our diplomats when they were under attack. But this is a country that is still rebuilding in the aftermath of Qaddafi. They don't necessarily always have the same capabilities that countries with more established governments might have in helping to provide protection to our folks.

But beyond that, what I want to do is make sure that we know exactly what happened, how it happened, who perpetrated this action. And then we'll act accordingly.

Q Can you tell us anything about the Marines that were killed? Were they assigned to the consulate?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're still in the process of notifying a couple of families. We haven't released their names. And so I don't want to go into details on that.

Q Okay. Your opponent, Governor Romney used the attack in Libya and also the situation, the incident in Cairo yesterday, to attack your policy, to go after your foreign policy in a fairly broad-based attack. What are your thoughts on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think most Americans, Democrats or Republicans, understand that there are times where we set politics aside, and one of those is when we've got a direct threat to American personnel who are overseas. And so I think that if you look at how most Republicans have reacted, most elected officials, they've reacted responsibly, waiting to find out the facts before they talked, making sure that our number-one priority is the safety and security of American personnel.

It appears that Governor Romney didn't have his facts right. The situation in Cairo was one in which an embassy that is being threatened by major protests releases a press release saying that the film that had disturbed so many Muslims around the world wasn't representative of what Americans believe about Islam, in an effort to cool the situation down. It didn't come from me; it didn't come from Secretary Clinton; it came from folks on the ground who are potentially in danger.

And my tendency is to cut folks a little bit of slack when they're in that circumstance, rather than try to question their judgment from the comfort of a campaign office.

And I do have to say that, more broadly, we believe in the First Amendment. It is one of the hallmarks of our Constitution that I'm sworn to uphold. And so we are always going to uphold the rights for individuals to speak their mind. On the other hand, this film is not representative of who we are and our values, and I think it's important for us to communicate that. That's never an excuse for violence against Americans -- which is why my number-one priority, and my initial statement focused on making sure that not

only are Americans safe, but that we go after anybody who would attack Americans.

There's a broader lesson to be learned here. Governor Romney seems to have a tendency to shoot first and aim later, and as President, one of the things I've learned is you can't do that -- that it's important for you to make sure that the statements you make are backed up by the facts and that you've thought through the ramifications before you make them.

Q Do you think it was irresponsible?

THE PRESIDENT: I'll let the American people judge that.

I know we're moving to a different segment, but there might be one other thing that might be useful for me to tell you about this -- if you guys are still filming.

This is also obviously a reminder that, for all the progress that we've made in fighting terrorism, that we're living in a volatile world, and our troops, but also our diplomats and our intelligence officers, they're putting their lives on the line every single day in some very dangerous circumstances. And I think Chris was an example of the best that our diplomatic corps has to offer -- somebody who was on the ground and because of his actions and his courage, helped to create an environment in which thousands of lives have been saved, and was full of energy and hopefulness about the relationship that the United States and Libya can develop over the long term.

So we honor his sacrifice. We honor Sean Smith's sacrifice. But I think we also have to understand that we have to remain vigilant, and that even as we continue to apply pressure on al Qaeda and other elements that are affiliated, that in big chunks of the world -- in Northern Africa and the Middle East -- you've got a lot of dangerous characters, and we've got to make sure that we're continuing to apply pressure on them. And that's something that I'm determined to do.

And I hope that all Americans recognize the sacrifices that a lot of our personnel, military and civilian, are making across the world to make sure that we're safe.

Q How much pressure have you been getting from Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to lay out some kind of a series of -- some way to measure when we might use military force? How much pressure have you been getting from Prime Minister Netanyahu to make up your mind to use military force in Iran?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, look, I have conversations with Prime Minister Netanyahu all the time, and I understand and share Prime Minister Netanyahu's insistence that Iran should not obtain a nuclear weapon. We are lockstep in agreement on that.

What I've also made clear publicly is that I don't have a policy of containment. We are not going to allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon because it would threaten us, it would threaten Israel, and it would threaten the world and kick off a nuclear arms race. And, frankly, the Iranians themselves have said they don't want one -- well, then this is a problem we should be able to solve. And I haven't taken any options off the table.

And so we're in constant consultation, almost daily consultation with the Israelis about our intelligence assessments of where they are at, about the diplomatic steps we've taken to isolate Iran, imposing the toughest sanctions on Iran that we have ever seen. It is having a crippling effect on their economy, and everybody acknowledges that. We haven't achieved the diplomatic breakthrough that we want, but we've still got a window of space to achieve that.

Now, that window is closing. And if the Iranians prove unable to rejoin the community of nations and meet their international obligations, then I'm going to reserve the right to take actions that are appropriate. That moment is not now. And as President of the United States, I don't announce ahead of time when or how I'm prepared to act.

Q President Netanyahu seems to want you to commit to military action against Iran if they get -- develop nuclear weapons -- develop a nuclear weapon. Do you think the United States and the American people want to get involved in another war in the Middle East?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that the American people wisely want their President to make a clear-eyed, sober assessment and not jump the gun when it comes to another military involvement after a decade of war.

I've been very clear that we do not believe that Iran having a nuclear weapon would be in the national security interest of the United States. We're going to do everything we can to prevent it. But what I think the American people expect me to do is also assess are there ways of achieving that goal, working not only with Israel but the entire international community, in a way that doesn't involve another military conflict. And as long as I believe that I've got time to make that happen, then I'm going to act consistent with the wisdom of the American people.

Q You have sort of a stormy relationship with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know what, a lot of times this stuff gets played up in the press. One of the wonderful things about the United States and Israel is we've got an open, robust, skeptical and conflict-obsessed press. And that's a good thing. That's part of what makes our democracies work. And that means there's constantly stories from this source or that source, some of it attributed, some of it not.

The fact of the matter is, is that Prime Minister Netanyahu and I share a vision of a Middle East that is peaceful, that is prosperous, where Israel is secure. That's in our

interest, as well as Israel's interest. And are there going to be occasional tactical differences in terms of how we achieve that? Absolutely. But I've got tactical differences with all our close allies. I don't agree with Great Britain or Japan or any country on every single issue, and they don't always agree with me. But our general trajectory is the same. And the friendship and bond between the United States and Israel transcends party, and it, frankly, transcends whoever the particular President or Prime Minister is at any given time.

Q You're saying you don't feel any pressure from Prime Minister Netanyahu, in the middle of a campaign, to try and get you to change your policy and draw a line in the sand? You don't feel any pressure?

THE PRESIDENT: When it comes to our national security decisions, any pressure that I feel is simply to do what's right for the American people. And I am going to block out any noise that's out there.

Now, I feel an obligation -- not pressure, but obligation -- to make sure that we're in close consultation with the Israelis on these issues because it affects them deeply. They're one of our closest allies in the region, and we've got an Iranian regime that has said horrible things that directly threaten Israel's existence and they've acted through proxies or otherwise to attack a close friend and ally of ours. And that's not acceptable. So we have an obligation to make sure that we are coordinating very closely.

And this is not my assessment -- this is the assessment of the current Secretary of Defense of Israel -- is that the cooperation militarily and in terms of intelligence between the United States and Israel has never been closer. That's what counts.

Q Have the events that took place in the Middle East, the recent events in the Middle East, given you any pause about your support for the governments that have come to power following the Arab Spring?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I said even at the time that this is going to be a rocky path. You look at a country like Egypt, this is the first democratic government they've had in -- what -- 7,000 years, right? I mean, you don't have the same civil society and traditions and habits where suddenly they're going to start operating like the United States or Switzerland overnight.

But the question presumes that somehow we could have stopped this wave of change. And it was my early assessment that over time, in this world where information is flowing constantly and ideas are constantly flowing and images are constantly flowing, that it was untenable to expect that the people of the Middle East -- Arabs, North Africans -- that somehow they would think, well, everybody else has freedom, but we don't have it; everybody else has a voice in their government, but we don't have it.

And so I think it was absolutely the right thing for us to do to align ourselves with

democracy, universal rights, a notion that people have to be able to participate in their own governance. But I was pretty certain, and continue to be pretty certain, that there are going to be bumps in the road, because in a lot of these places the one organizing principle has been Islam, the one part of society that hasn't been controlled completely by the government. There are strains of extremism and anti-Americanism and anti-Western sentiment and anti-modern sentiment in some of those countries that are strong and can be tapped into by demagogues.

So we're going to have to work very carefully in these countries to say we support democracy, we support freedom, we support universal rights, but part of what we consider to be democracy is protecting women from abuse, making sure that religious minorities are protected, that there's transparency and openness in how governments operate, that we abhor corruption.

And the more that we're talking about those values and being clear about what our interests are, then there will probably be some times where we bump up against some of these countries and have strong disagreements, but I do think that over the long term we're more likely to get a Middle East and a North Africa that is more peaceful, more prosperous, and more aligned with our interests.

RELEASED IN FULL

Excerpt of 60 Minutes Interview with POTUS (conducted 9/13/2012, will air 9/16/2012)

Q Since the Benghazi tragedy, your opponent has attacked you as being weak on national defense and weak on foreign policy. He says you need to be more aggressive on Iran, you haven't done enough to support the revolt in Syria, and that our friends don't know where we stand and our enemies think we're weak.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let's see what I've done since I came into office. I said I'd end the war in Iraq -- I did. I said that we'd go after al Qaeda -- they've been decimated in the FATA. That we'd go after bin Laden -- he's gone. And that we would begin transitioning in Afghanistan by building up our Afghan security forces so that we can start bringing our troops home. So I've executed on my foreign policy and it's one that the American people largely agree with.

With respect to Iran, we've mobilized an unprecedented economic sanctions regime on the Iranian government, and as a consequence the economy is weakened. Their influence is actually waning in the region. And I think that across the board, what we've done is we've aligned ourselves with democracies, understanding that it's going to be a bumpy road ahead.

So if Governor Romney is suggesting that we should start another war, he should say so. If he has specific suggestions rather than just rhetoric, then I'm sure the American people would want to hear it. But what I think that my administration has tried to do is to focus on those threats that directly impact the United States, build alliances to work together with us to accomplish our goals, to strengthen our alliances around the world. And we accomplished that.

Q One of the things that has been -- I think most Americans think we're spending too much money. The national debt has gone up 60 percent in the four years that you've been in office. I know you say you proposed \$4 trillion in cuts. What are the cuts? And one of the big issues is entitlements. Are you willing to cut entitlements, and how?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, Steve, I think it's important to understand the context here. When I came to office I inherited the biggest deficit in our history, and over the last four years the deficit has gone up, but 90 percent of that is as a consequence of two wars that weren't paid for, as a consequence of tax cuts that weren't paid for, a prescription drug plan that was not paid for, and then the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Now, we took some emergency actions, but that accounts for about 10 percent of this increase in the deficit.

And what I've already done is worked a deal with Republicans to cut discretionary spending by a trillion dollars, the largest reduction in discretionary spending in a very, very long time. And we have actually seen the federal government grow at a slower pace than at any time since Dwight Eisenhower -- in fact, substantially lower than

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the federal government grew under either Ronald Reagan or George Bush.

So that's the context in which we've got to make some decisions going forward. I'm prepared to do a lot more and I've already put together a package of \$4 trillion in reductions. And I've also said that we can do some serious entitlement reform, but what I won't do is take Governor Romney and Congressman Ryan's recommendation to turn Medicare into a voucher system, which would dump more costs on to seniors. What I'm not willing to do is to pay for another tax cut for folks like you and me by cutting help to young people to go to college, or basic research that might end up providing cures for debilitating diseases. That's not a recipe for growth.

And we can reduce our deficit, including making some smart decisions on Medicare, in particular, where we're focused on lowering health care costs by reforming how health care is delivered. But we don't need to be voucherizing the system and dump those costs on to seniors, because, frankly, they can't afford it right now.

RELEASED IN FULL**RECENT STATEMENTS FROM MIKE ROGERS (R-MI)****CNN "Starting Point" Interview with Representative Mike Rogers (R-MI)****Subject: The Level of Terrorist Involvement in Anti-American Protests in the Middle East;****Interviewers: Brooke Baldwin and John Berman****Time: 7:16 a.m. EDT, Date: Thursday, September 13, 2012**

BROOKE BALDWIN: Let's talk to someone who certainly knows a thing or two about intelligence, Congressman Mike Rogers from Michigan. He's the chair of the Intelligence Committee. He has been thoroughly briefed about the situation that's been percolating over the last couple of days in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman, good morning to you.

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE ROGERS (R-MI): Good morning.

MS. BALDWIN: First, let's just begin with these pictures, these pictures that we've been showing, live pictures out of the capital of Yemen. First we had Cairo. Then we had Benghazi, now Yemen. How do you interpret this?

REP. ROGERS: Well, we've had some problems across the Middle East. And I think the policy there needs -- we need more clarification on what U.S. policy is in the Middle East. And a little bit of strength now is going to be incredibly important.

So the fact that we are going to pursue with all vigor the folks who perpetrated the crime against our U.S. diplomats stationed in Benghazi, the fact that there may be more to this story in Egypt about how it was coordinated -- was there an information operation with some extremist groups who used the protesters to try to penetrate the embassy? -- and now, of course, what you see in Yemen, these are all opportunities that are stacking up for individuals who want to go after American stations abroad.

So this is a very important time for us to have a very clear sense, and communicate that across the Middle East, what U.S. policy is, how we're going to handle people who cross the wall. This is a pretty serious matter, and we've got to stop it now. If we're still talking about other embassies in several weeks, we've got real trouble.

JOHN BERMAN: Chairman Rogers, you are the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, privy to some of the information that has been coming out overnight. You have been saying that we may be getting close to figuring out who exactly these groups were that did perpetrate this. What can you tell us? Is it one group in Libya, a separate group in Egypt? What do you think right now?

REP. ROGERS: Well, I don't think -- at least today, I don't have anything that would say that they were working together. The effort on the compound in Benghazi clearly was a coordinated

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type effort. This wasn't just a bunch of folks who grabbed some rifles and said, hey, let's -- this is a great opportunity, let's go down and shoot up the embassy.

MR. BERMAN: Al-Qaida, do you think?

REP. ROGERS: Al-Qaida -- it certainly has all the hallmarks of an al-Qaida operation or an al-Qaida affiliate. And one of the things that we've noticed over the last six or seven months is that al-Qaida in the Maghreb, northern Africa, has said that they're really eager to try to strike western targets. We've seen cells in Tunisia, cells in Libya starting to develop. Of course, we knew cells in Yemen. And so we knew that there were activities. And I think this was at least a high-profile example.

And remember, this -- the site in Benghazi was the target several months ago of an IED attack. So this is not the first time that they've tried to cause some casualties and kill some Americans at this particular site. So we knew all this was kind of putting together. And it's likely, given the signature, that it was at least an al-Qaida affiliate organization.

MS. BALDWIN: Not the first time; certainly been on the radar. That's an understatement. And I know, you know, intelligence folks are going to be what they call rescubbing, looking at, you know, old, old chatter to see if there were any warning signs. Were there no warning signs that you knew of that this would have been potentially so carefully planned?

REP. ROGERS: Well, nothing at least we have seen up to this date. And then, you're right, we'll all go back and we'll -- our job as the oversight committee will be to go back and take a look at all that information, see what we may have missed, and also, why did we miss it. But the interesting thing -- I mean, obviously we knew 9/11 is an important date for al-Qaida and others who want to cause some harm to the United States. So security was -- at least they did a scrub around the date, just to see if there was anything out there, didn't seem like there was. But we're going to have to go back, a lot of questions to ask in this. Same with Egypt, even though it was different. It wasn't a coordinated military-style attack.

We know that for months they've been infiltrating protesters and generating protesters. And these are extremist groups who have very anti-American views. We need to understand if they were trying to do more than just protest and if 9/11 was the day that they triggered this event to go over the wall into the embassy.

MR. BERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to talk about Egypt right now, because the response from the new Egyptian leader, Mohamed Morsi, has been tepid, to say the least. I think that would be a gross overstatement right now. He put a statement out on Facebook, half sort of kind of condemning the violence out there.

And then President Obama last night gave an interview where he talked about our relationship with Egypt, using very, very interesting language that, I have to say, I have never heard before. Let's take a listen.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: (From videotape.) I don't think that we would consider them an ally, but we don't consider them an enemy. They are a new government that is trying to find its way. They were democratically elected. I think that we are going to have to see how they respond to this incident. I think it's still a work in progress. But certainly in this situation what we're going to expect is that they are responsive to our insistence that our embassy is protected, our personnel is protected.

MR. BERMAN: Not an ally, not an enemy. Mr. Chairman, do you agree with that statement, especially in light of the fact that they're the second-largest recipient of foreign aid to us -- from us?

REP. ROGERS: Well, remember, since 1979, since the accords, the peace accords, they have been an ally, been a very strong ally in the region for peace, which is important. And what happened with this new election is you have a government who is predominantly -- the majority of which is Muslim Brotherhood, who has made some very interesting and, I argue, counterproductive choices.

They moved tanks into the Sinai, that area between Israel and Egypt, that has now become inflamed with violence and weapons and all of those things. That caused a whole bunch of problems. There was some discussion, how do we negotiate bringing the tanks back out of the Sinai; very provocative. And they've done other -- had other decisions in Egypt, including the fact that they have -- they were not very responsive on protecting our embassy in Egypt.

And so they have some -- a little bit of anti-Israel rhetoric, a little bit of anti-American rhetoric, weave through some of their speeches and some of their policies in Egypt. So that's why right now there is a question mark. Which direction is Egypt going to go? Are they going to be a friend, an ally of the United States, or are they going to go off on their own path, which is going to set up a whole new set of problems for Egypt?

And remember, some of this is for domestic politics. They have a horrible economy, and it's going to get worse. And sometimes, in cases like that, we've noticed that the easy default is, well, hey, you might not have a job, you may have no hope, but let's hate the Americans or the Israelis across the border. And I think there's some of that going on in Egypt right now that's very disturbing and will lead to some serious trouble if we don't get this turned around.

MS. BALDWIN: Chairman Rogers, just one final question. And I know, as Americans are waking up this morning and they're seeing these pictures playing out in Yemen and other countries and they're thinking back to the last time we saw this, a celebratory revolution, and they're wondering, is the Arab spring coming back to haunt us? What's your answer?

REP. ROGERS: I think it's too early to tell. I think there are certainly huge challenges. The problem is -- and Egypt is a great example of the Arab spring. The people who caused the uprising, caused the change in government, caused the revolution in Egypt, aren't really part of the government now.

So it was the youth. It was the folks who were disenfranchised -- highly educated, very high unemployment and very well connected with social media, which is the thing that tipped this thing over. But those people weren't very organized. The Muslim Brotherhood have been there for a long time. They had a political organization.

I think if you sample the people who helped turn Egypt over, they're not -- they're feeling a little disenfranchised the day that Morsi was sworn in. That's the problem you have in the Arab spring, and we see it kind of filtering around all over; a little bit in Libya, smaller amount in Tunisia, but certainly in Egypt, the same in Yemen. So you see these changes where people still, on the day of the free elections, still feel disenfranchised.

MS. BALDWIN: Right.

REP. ROGERS: And that's something we haven't quite gotten our arms around yet.

MS. BALDWIN: ~~Mike Rogers~~, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. We will continue this conversation, I'm sure, at some point. We appreciate you being up with us this morning.

REP. ROGERS: Thank you.

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson**

**For Immediate Release
September 14, 2012
2012/1443**

REMARKS

**Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
At the Transfer of Remains Ceremony
To Honor Those Lost in Attacks in Benghazi, Libya**

**September 14, 2012
Andrews Air Force Base
Joint Base Andrews, Maryland**

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Chaplain. Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, Secretary Panetta, Ambassador Rice, Secretary Powell and Mrs. Powell, family members of the four patriots and heroes we bring home, members of the State Department family, ladies and gentlemen, today we bring home four Americans who gave their lives for our country and our values. To the families of our fallen colleagues, I offer our most heartfelt condolences and deepest gratitude.

Sean Smith joined the State Department after six years in the Air Force. He was respected as an expert on technology by colleagues in Pretoria, Baghdad, Montreal, and The Hague. He enrolled in correspondence courses at Penn State and had high hopes for the future. Sean leaves behind a loving wife Heather, two young children, Samantha and Nathan, and scores of grieving family, friends, and colleagues. And that's just in this world. Because online in the virtual worlds that Sean helped create, he is also being mourned by countless competitors, collaborators, and gamers who shared his passion.

Tyrone Woods, known to most as Rone, spent two decades as a Navy SEAL, serving multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2010, he protected American diplomatic personnel in dangerous posts from Central America to the Middle East. He had the hands of a healer as well as the arms of a warrior, earning distinction as a registered nurse and certified paramedic. Our hearts go out to Tyrone's wife Dorothy, and his three sons Tyrone, Jr., Hunter, and Kai, born just a few months ago, along with his grieving family, friends, and colleagues.

Glen Doherty, who went by Bub, was also a former SEAL and an experienced paramedic. He too died as he lived, serving his country and protecting his colleagues. Glen deployed to some of the most dangerous places on Earth, including Iraq and Afghanistan, always putting his life on the line to safeguard other Americans. Our thoughts and prayers are with Glen's father Bernard, his mother Barbara, his brother Gregory, his sister Kathleen, and their grieving families, friends, and colleagues.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

I was honored to know Ambassador Chris Stevens. I want to thank his parents and siblings, who are here today, for sharing Chris with us and with our country. What a wonderful gift you gave us. Over his distinguished career in the Foreign Service, Chris won friends for the United States far-flung places. He made those people's hopes his own. During the revolution in Libya, he risked his life to help protect the Libyan people from a tyrant, and he gave his life helping them build a better country.

People loved to work with Chris. And as he rose through the ranks, they loved to work for Chris. He was known not only for his courage but for his smile – goofy but contagious – for his sense of fun and that California cool.

In the days since the attack, so many Libyans – including the Ambassador from Libya to the United States, who is with us today – have expressed their sorrow and solidarity. One young woman, her head covered and her eyes haunted with sadness, held up a handwritten sign that said "Thugs and killers don't represent Benghazi nor Islam." The President of the Palestinian Authority, who worked closely with Chris when he served in Jerusalem, sent me a letter remembering his energy and integrity, and deploring – and I quote – "an act of ugly terror." Many others from across the Middle East and North Africa have offered similar sentiments.

This has been a difficult week for the State Department and for our country. We've seen the heavy assault on our post in Benghazi that took the lives of those brave men. We've seen rage and violence directed at American embassies over an awful internet video that we had nothing to do with. It is hard for the American people to make sense of that because it is senseless, and it is totally unacceptable.

The people of Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and Tunisia did not trade the tyranny of a dictator for the tyranny of a mob. Reasonable people and responsible leaders in these countries need to do everything they can to restore security and hold accountable those behind these violent acts. And we will, under the President's leadership, keep taking steps to protect our personnel around the world.

There will be more difficult days ahead, but it is important that we don't lose sight of the fundamental fact that America must keep leading the world. We owe it to those four men to continue the long, hard work of diplomacy. I am enormously proud of the men and women of the State Department. I'm proud of all those across our government, civilian and military alike, who represent America abroad. They help make the United States the greatest force for peace, progress, and human dignity the world has ever known. If the last few days teach us anything, let it be this: That this work and the men and women who risk their lives to do it are at the heart of what makes America great and good.

So we will wipe away our tears, stiffen our spines, and face the future undaunted. And we will do it together, protecting and helping one another, just like Sean, Tyrone, Glen, and Chris always did. May God bless them and grant their families peace and solace, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

And now, let me have the great honor of introducing someone who came to the State Department earlier this week to grieve with us. He well understands and values the work that these men were doing for our country. The President of the United States.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2012

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT TRANSFER OF REMAINS CEREMONY
FOR BENGHAZI VICTIMS

Andrews Air Force Base

2:46 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Scripture teaches us "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Glen Doherty never shied from adventure. He believed that, in his life, he could make a difference -- a calling he fulfilled as a Navy SEAL. He served with distinction in Iraq and worked in Afghanistan. And there, in Benghazi, as he tended to others, he laid down his life, loyal as always, protecting his friends. Today, Glen is home.

Tyrone Woods devoted 20 years of his life to the SEALs -- the consummate "quiet professional." At the Salty Frog Bar, they might not have known, but "Rone" also served in Iraq and Afghanistan. And there, in Benghazi, he was far from Dorothy and Tyrone Jr., Hunter and little Kai. And he laid down his life, as he would have for them, protecting his friends. And today, Rone is home.

Sean Smith, it seems, lived to serve -- first, in the Air Force, then, with you at the State Department. He knew the perils of this calling from his time in Baghdad. And there, in Benghazi, far from home, he surely thought of Heather and Samantha and Nathani. And he laid down his life in service to us all. Today, Sean is home.

Chris Stevens was everything America could want in an ambassador, as the whole country has come to see -- how he first went to the region as a young man in the Peace Corps, how during the revolution, he arrived in Libya on that cargo ship, how he believed in Libya and its people and how they loved him back. And there, in Benghazi, he laid down his life for his friends -- Libyan and American -- and for us all. Today, Chris is home.

Four Americans, four patriots -- they loved this country and they chose to serve it, and served it well. They had a mission and they believed in it. They knew the danger and they accepted it. They didn't simply embrace the American ideal, they lived it. They embodied it -- the courage, the hope and, yes, the idealism, that fundamental American belief that we can leave this world a little better than before. That's who they were and that's who we are. And if we want to truly honor their memory, that's who we must always be.

I know that this awful loss, the terrible images of recent days, the pictures we're seeing again today, have caused some to question this work. And there is no doubt these are difficult

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days. In moments such as this -- so much anger and violence --even the most hopeful among us must wonder.

But amid all of the images of this week, I also think of the Libyans who took to the streets with homemade signs expressing their gratitude to an American who believed in what we could achieve together. I think of the man in Benghazi with his sign in English, a message he wanted all of us to hear that said, "Chris Stevens was a friend to all Libyans. Chris Stevens was a friend."

That's the message these four patriots sent. That's the message that each of you sends every day -- civilians, military -- to people in every corner of the world, that America is a friend, and that we care not just about our own country, not just about our own interests, but about theirs; that even as voices of suspicion and mistrust seek to divide countries and cultures from one another, the United States of America will never retreat from the world. We will never stop working for the dignity and freedom that every person deserves, whatever their creed, whatever their faith.

That's the essence of American leadership. That's the spirit that sets us apart from other nations. This was their work in Benghazi, and this is the work we will carry on.

To you -- their families and colleagues -- to all Americans, know this: Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. We will bring to justice those who took them from us. We will stand fast against the violence on our diplomatic missions. We will continue to do everything in our power to protect Americans serving overseas, whether that means increasing security at our diplomatic posts, working with host countries, which have an obligation to provide security, and making it clear that justice will come to those who harm Americans.

Most of all, even in our grief, we will be resolute. For we are Americans, and we hold our head high knowing that because of these patriots -- because of you -- this country that we love will always shine as a light unto the world.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

The flag they served under now carries them home. May God bless the memory of these men who laid down their lives for us all. May God watch over your families and all who loved them. And may God bless these United States of America.

END

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RECENT STATEMENTS FROM JOHN MCCAIN

Stakeout with Senator John McCain (R-AZ); Senator Joseph Lieberman (ID-CT) following a Closed Senate Armed Services Committee Briefing

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C., Date: Friday, September 14, 2012

Q: What can you say about the situations in Egypt and (Libya ??)?

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ): There was nothing in the briefing that I just received that I hadn't read or heard in public media, as usual.

Q: How concerned are you about the situation in Egypt and Libya right now, can you say?

SEN. MCCAIN: Well, I'm concerned, but I'm most concerned about American failure, American leadership. It's clear that the message throughout the Middle East is the United States is weak, and the United States is leaving. That encourages extremist elements. The slaughter goes on in Syria, Iraq is unraveling, and Afghanistan -- there are significant failures and casualties, with Afghan soldiers killing Americans. And so a failure of American leadership is apparent throughout the region.

Q: Can you speak specifically about the ongoing protests at these embassies? Is there other things that you'd like to see the United States government do that it's not doing?

SEN. MCCAIN: It's not the -- well, of course the United States has an obligation to protect its citizens serving overseas, but it's also the obligation of the host government. We have every right to expect the Egyptian government to protect our embassy and its personnel.

In Libya, you're not seeing the kinds of protest that you are seeing in Egypt. The Libya people, I know for a fact, overwhelmingly are grateful to the United States of America. There are jihadists and al-Qaida elements that have come into these countries. But to think that the Libyan people are somehow involved in this is just not accurate. It was a terrorist attack organized and carried out by terrorists. The majority of the Libyan people are very grateful to the United States of America.

In Egypt, the Islamists use whatever excuse they can to stir up the people, and they have succeeded in doing so.

I think in the short term, I think that these host countries will probably provide sufficient security for our embassy personnel. In the long term everything is unraveling in that part of the world because the United States is weak. This president does not understand the importance of American leadership, and he continues to want to, in his own words, lead from behind.

Q: Senator McCain, what do you --

Q: (Inaudible) -- Governor Romney lay out the contrast that -- (inaudible) --

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SEN. MCCAIN: Look, the issue of Governor Romney has been -- has been discussed over and over and over again. I'm concerned about the security of American citizens in these embassies. I'm concerned about the weak leadership of the president of the United States. And I'm not talking about what Romney should or shouldn't have done anymore.

Q: Senator --

Q: What about --

SEN. MCCAIN: I'm not going to talk -- I have -- I have recommended to Governor Romney that he give a foreign policy speech which talks about the United States' role, not only in the Middle East but in the world.

Q: Senator McCain, what do you make of President Obama's interview he did with Telemundo? When asked about Egypt and the relationship with Egypt, he said, they're not an ally, they're not an enemy.

SEN. MCCAIN: What I would have said, if asked, is that we are through difficult times with Egypt. They're an important nation in the Middle East. They're the heart and soul of the Arab world. We certainly expect them to protect all American citizens, particularly our embassy. And obviously, we have to continuously evaluate our relationship with Egypt.

Q: Senator McCain -- (inaudible) -- events in Libya were a terrorist attack perpetuated by terrorists. Do you have any actionable intelligence on that? And if so, was that missed or glossed over in any way?

SEN. MCCAIN: It's hard to know exactly what took place and how long it was planned, and -- I don't have that information.

I know very well that there were demonstrations, that there was a group of either al-Qaida or some radical Islamists who -- about 15 of them, armed with RPGs and other lethal weapons, that seized this opportunity to attack our consulate. And it was an act of terror. It wasn't an act of a mob getting out of control. We should understand that. This was a calculated act of terror on the part of a small group of jihadists, not a mob that somehow attacked and sacked our embassy.

Q: Was it -- (inaudible) -- al-Qaida?

SEN. MCCAIN: It certainly was extremist elements. If it's not al-Qaida, it's certainly one of the affiliated organizations.

Q: There's a report out -- (off mic) -- that the State Department had known of this -- an attack might come. Have you heard about that?

SEN. MCCAIN: I have not -- I have not heard that. I have not heard that.

Q: Senator, there's word that the Muslim Brotherhood has canceled all protests in Egypt except for in Tahrir Square, specifically about the film there. Does that signal to you that the Egyptian government is heeding the call of the president?

SEN. MCCAIN: Oh, I think – I think the Egyptian government is heeding the call. I think that President Morsi made a statement announcing it. The question is, of course, is the president of Egypt more interested in relations with other countries in the region or believes that the United States is so weak that it doesn't matter what role the United States plays.

Q: In terms of trying to track down the people behind the attack on Libya, there have been reports from Libyan officials that they have made arrests. Do you have any intelligence or any word on that?

SEN. MCCAIN: No, I have no additional information.

Q: Senator, are you disappointed that Mitt Romney isn't taking your advice – (off mic) –

SEN. MCCAIN: He hasn't what?

Q: He isn't taking your advice – (off mic) – that foreign policy – (off mic) –

SEN. MCCAIN: I think he will. No, I think he will.

Q: By the end of the week, though?

SEN. MCCAIN: I don't know, but I'm confident that he will.

Q: Senator – (off mic). Senator Feinstein had said last night that there was no evidence to indicate that. So you seeing evidence she's not, or –

SEN. MCCAIN: The evidence on its face. The reporting is that 15 people with beards, with weapons such as RPGs – people don't go to demonstrate and carry RPGs and automatic weapons. I mean, that fact on its face indicates that this was not a mob action by a group of protesters.

Q: Have you seen anything that indicates that there was any kind of failure by U.S. intelligence agencies or the U.S. government to –

SEN. MCCAIN: Whenever something like this happens, there's – obviously that there is a failure. Whether that failure was of great significance or nonsignificance or it was one of those things that probably we couldn't have prevented was something that I think we will be finding out in the coming days. I'm not ready to indict our intelligence community until we get more facts.

Q: Senator McCain, about Syria. There are reports that the Syrian forces of Assad are using airplanes to strike towns. Now, that was sort of a red line for our actions, a no-fly zone, in Libya. What's the difference this time?

SEN. MCCAIN: The president refuses to lead. The president refuses to even speak up. When was the last time the president of the United States spoke up for the over 20,000 people – men, women and children – that have been massacred by Bashar Assad?

Obviously, we are not providing assistance to them, according to published reports. It's obvious that the region cries out for American leadership, which is totally missing. And the slaughter goes on.

My question to the president of the United States and to the administration is, how many more have to die? How many more Syrians have to be wounded, raped, murdered and tortured before the United States will at least provide them with weapons so they can defend themselves? Now they are being attacked by tanks, artillery and airplanes. It's a shameful chapter in American history.

Q: Thank you.

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FULL

White House Press briefing (9/14/2012)

Note: This includes a topical index for ease of use. Note that Toria did not brief until 4:30pm, so we will provide that transcript as soon as it's available.

Libya/Unrest in the Middle East

1. No actionable intelligence indicating an imminent attack on mission in Benghazi
2. Administration is taking steps in response to unrest
3. Romney's comment 'an attempt to score a political point'
4. President attending ceremony at Andrews, has had conversations with leaders in the region
5. Protest not directed at U.S. policy, but at offensive video; violence is not justified
6. No intelligence that could have been acted on to prevent these attacks
7. Refer to State on security at Benghazi, President ordered review of security around the world
8. Violence not a reaction to the 9/11 anniversary or a U.S. policy
9. Libya is more pro-American than region, has turmoil and a lot of armed groups
10. Unrest in the region in response to video, working to ensure personnel are secure
11. There's anti-American sentiment around the Middle East, violence is not proper reaction to offensive film
12. Should those arrested for the attacks be tried in the U.S.?
14. There may be lessons learned from this incident, still coping with situation
16. Was there a review of security at diplomatic installations?
17. President is voracious consumer of daily briefing and information from national security team
18. Report on intelligence about Benghazi false
19. Are America's relations with the Muslim world worse off now? – Middle East has undergone historic change
20. Unrest is reaction to film, U.S. protects freedom of speech
21. U.S. denounces (not apologizes for) video, cannot and will not squelch freedom of expression
22. Carney: I don't believe the White House asked Youtube to take the video down
24. U.S. remains vigilant of unrest, tries to get out message that video has nothing to do with U.S. policy
25. Focus should be on the four Americans lost in Libya, will debate foreign policy later
26. Investigating attack, do not have concrete evidence to suggest it was not in reaction to the film

Israel/Iran

13. Netanyahu call, commitment to preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapon, still time for sanctions, no options are off the table

Egypt

15. Egypt is a critical strategic partner of the U.S., Morsi's condolences, Egypt will ensure safety of American personnel
23. Morsi call discussed need to secure diplomatic facilities and personnel, important strategic partnership with Egypt

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

1. No actionable intelligence indicating an imminent attack on mission in Benghazi

Q: Hi, Jay. Thanks very much. On the Libya attacks, was there any intelligence in advance that some kind of attack could take place, especially because so many embassies were taking precautions because of 9/11? Was there any advance warning at all?

MR. CARNEY: I have seen that report, and the story is absolutely wrong. We were not aware of any actionable intelligence indicating that an attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi was planned or imminent. That report is false.

2. Administration is taking steps in response to unrest

Q: Jay, as you know, the unrest in the Middle East is spreading to other embassies, U.S. embassies. Sometimes critics are saying this is an indictment of the handling of the Arab Spring, that this has given rise to further inflamed sentiment among Islamists. What's his response to that?

MR. CARNEY: Let me say a couple of things. First of all, we are obviously closely monitoring developments in the region today. You saw that following the incidents in response to this video, the president directed the administration to take a number of steps to prepare for continued unrest. And I noted yesterday in my gaggle that Fridays have tended to be days when protests are larger in the Muslim world, and we were anticipating that.

3. Romney's comment 'an attempt to score a political point'

When it comes to criticism, I would note that many observers, commentators, foreign policy experts, as well as elected officials, both Democrats and Republicans, have pointed out that criticism, in particular from Governor Romney and his team in what seems to be an attempt to score a political point, has been both factually wrong and poorly timed.

Now is a time when Americans should be coming together.

4. President attending ceremony at Andrews, has had conversations with leaders in the region

The president is attending a ceremony this afternoon for the return of remains of four U.S. personnel who were killed in Libya as a result of this unrest. And his focus is on ensuring that U.S. personnel and our facilities are protected. That is why he directed his administration to ensure that security would be enhanced around the world at our diplomatic facilities.

He has, as you know because we've read out these phone calls, had numerous conversations with leaders in the region, including the presidents of Egypt and Libya. He sent a message -- a personal message to leader of Turkey, Prime Minister Erdogan, asking for his assistance to speak out against the violence. And I think you saw that the prime minister did that, and the president is very appreciative of these statements and the actions these leaders have taken personally. President Morsi again today, as well as yesterday, has spoken out against any violence and committed himself to protecting U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel in Egypt.

5. Protest not directed at U.S. policy, but at offensive video; violence is not justified

We also need to understand that this is a fairly volatile situation. And it is in response not to United States policy, not to, obviously, the administration, not to the American people.

It is in response to a video, a film, that we have judged to be reprehensible and disgusting. That in no way justifies any violent reaction to it, but this is not a case of protest directed at the United States writ large or at U.S. policy. This is in response to a video that is offensive and -- to Muslims.

Again, this is not in any way justifying violence. And we've spoken very clearly out against that and condemned it. And the president is making sure in his conversations with leaders around the region that they are committed, as hosts to diplomatic facilities, that -- to protect both personnel and buildings and other facilities that are part of the U.S. representation in those countries.

6. No intelligence that could have been acted on to prevent these attacks

Q: One of my colleagues in the Associated Press asked you a direct question, was there any direct intelligence suggesting that there would be an attack on the U.S. consulates. You said that a story -- referred to a story being false and said there was no actionable intelligence, but you didn't answer his question. Was there any intelligence, period -- intelligence, period, suggesting that there was going to be an attack on either the --

MR. CARNEY: There was no intelligence that in any way could have been acted on to prevent these attacks. It is -- I mean, I think the DNI spokesman was very declarative about this, that the report is false. The report suggested that there was intelligence that was available prior to this that led us to believe that this facility would be attacked, and that is false.

7. Refer to State on security at Benghazi, President ordered review of security around the world

Q: Why was there not adequate security around Ambassador Stevens?

MR. CARNEY: In terms of the security at the Benghazi facility or post, I would have to refer you to the State Department for specifics about what security was there.

There was a security presence. It was, unfortunately, not enough to resist the attacks that we saw, and resulted in the tragic loss of life, but there was security. It is also the case that in reaction to this, the president has ordered that we review all of our security arrangements for embassy facilities and other diplomatic facilities around the world. But in terms of the specific security that was in place at Benghazi, I'd have to refer you to the State Department.

8. Violence not a reaction to the 9/11 anniversary or a U.S. policy

Q: Wouldn't it seem logical that the anniversary of 9/11 would be a time that you would want to have extra security around diplomats and military posts?

MR. CARNEY: Well, as you know, there -- we are very vigilant around anniversaries like 9/11. The president is always briefed and brought up to speed on all the precautions being taken. But let's be --

Q: (Inaudible.)

MR. CARNEY: Jake, let's be clear. This -- these protests were in reaction to a video that had spread to the region --

Q: At Benghazi?

MR. CARNEY: We certainly don't know; we don't know otherwise. You know, we have no information to suggest that it was a preplanned attack. The unrest we've seen around the region has been in reaction to a video that Muslims, many Muslims find offensive. And while the violence is reprehensible and unjustified, it is not a reaction to the 9/11 anniversary that we know of or to U.S. policy.

9. Libya is more pro-American than region, has turmoil and a lot of armed groups

Q: The group around the Benghazi post was well-armed, it was a well-coordinated attack. Do you think it was a spontaneous protest against a movie?

MR. CARNEY: Look, this is obviously under investigation, and I don't have -- but I answered the question.

Q: But your operating assumptions -- your operating assumption is that that was -- that was in response to the video, in Benghazi? I just want to clear that up. That's the framework; that's the operating assumption?

MR. CARNEY: It's not an assumption --

Q: (Off mic) -- you say that there -- that it looks like this was something other than -- (inaudible)

MR. CARNEY: I think there have been misreports on this, Jake, even in the press, which some of it has been speculative. What I'm telling you is this is under investigation. The unrest around the region has been in response to this video. We do not, at this moment, have information to suggest or to tell you that would indicate that any of this unrest was preplanned.

What is true about Libya is that -- a couple of things. One is it's one of the more pro-American countries in the region. Two, it is a very new government. It is a country that has just come out of a revolution and a lot of turmoil, and there are certainly a lot of armed groups. So the fact that there are weapons in the region and the new government is not -- you know, is still building up its capacities in terms of security and its -- and its ability to ensure the security of facilities is not necessarily reflective of anything except for the remarkable transformation that's been going on in the region.

10. Unrest in the region in response to video, working to ensure personnel are secure

Q: (Off mic) -- my last question, it was said that what happened at 9/11 was a failure of imagination, failure of American policymakers and counterterrorism officials to anticipate the kind of attack that could have taken place. This would seem to be the exact opposite. Was this a

failure by the Obama administration? Did the president and his administration mess up in any way?

MR. CARNEY: Jake, again, what we have seen is unrest around the region in response to a video that Muslims find offensive, many Muslims find offensive. We have seen incidents like this in the past in reaction to other actions, cartoons, and other actions that have been taken that have been -- have led to protests and violence in the region.

And we have managed those situations, and we are working to ensure that our diplomatic personnel and our diplomatic facilities are secure as we deal with the response to this video, which we believe is offensive and disgusting.

Q: (Off mic.)
(Cross talk.)

MR. CARNEY: Again, I don't think -- I think you have to understand what is happening currently in the region and what it is a response to. This is not -- this has been in --

Q: No, I don't need to understand that, I think the people who protect the embassies need to understand it.

MR. CARNEY: The cause of the unrest was a video, and that continues today, as you know, as we anticipated. And it may continue for sometime. We are working with governments around the region to remind them of their responsibilities to provide security to diplomatic personnel and facilities, and we are ensuring that more resources are put in place to protect our embassies and consulates and our personnel in these parts of the world where unrest is occurring.

11. There's anti-American sentiment around the Middle East, violence is not proper reaction to offensive film

Q: You mentioned a number of times now that this was a response to a video or a film. Would you not agree, though, that's it moved beyond that, that some are stirring violence by focusing on U.S. policy or targeting the U.S. in general, that it's no longer just about film?

MR. CARNEY: Well, the reason why there is unrest is because of the film.

Q: Well, that's -- (inaudible) --

MR. CARNEY: I don't doubt --

Q: -- sparked it.

MR. CARNEY: We do think that's what sparked it.

Q: Right, but it's moved beyond that.

MR. CARNEY: Well, I don't -- we obviously are not polling protesters to find out what their motivations are. There is no question that there's anti-American sentiment in various countries around the Middle East. That's not a discovery I think we've made today. What is the case is that the protesters in these countries are not representative of the broader sentiment in those countries -- at least in the sense that sentiment that would say that the reaction -- the proper reaction to a film that is offensive is violence.

As I said yesterday, that's not in keeping with Islam and it's certainly something that we do not accept. And we have made clear to leaders in the region that they need to make clear that it is not an acceptable reaction to a film, however offensive it might be. Again, this is not a film that the United States government had anything to do with. We reject its message and its contents. We find it both disgusting and reprehensible.

America has a history of religious tolerance and respect for religious beliefs. And that history goes back to our nation's founding. But there is absolutely -- as I've said, absolutely no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence. And we are making -- we are working, rather, to make sure that Muslims around the globe hear that message.

12. Should those arrested for the attacks be tried in the U.S.?

Q: Jay -- (inaudible) -- sorry, it's my understanding that at least four people have been arrested in the deaths of the Americans. Does the president think that whoever's arrested for these -- for this violence should be tried here in the U.S.?

MR. CARNEY: This is an ongoing investigation. We're obviously working with our -- with the Libyan government on this matter.

The president has made clear that he wants the assailants, the attackers, to be brought to justice. But I'm not going to prejudge outcomes or courses of action as this investigation is under way.

13. Netanyahu call, commitment to preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapon, still time for sanctions, no options are off the table

Q: (Off mic) -- another question about the phone call that the president had with Benjamin Netanyahu. Is it correct that the president refused to lay down a red line in terms of what Iran shouldn't cross with its nuclear program?

MR. CARNEY: This has been an ongoing discussion in the press. It's not specific to the phone call, the one of many, that the president has had with Prime Minister Netanyahu. The president's red line has been clear. The president has made clear that he is committed to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. We are completely in sync with Israel on that matter. There is no daylight between the United States and Israel when it comes to the absolute commitment to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

We are pursuing a policy that includes incredibly intense punitive sanctions, unprecedented in history, against Iran -- sanctions that are in place as a result of diplomatic work that has created an international consensus that did not exist prior to President Obama taking office and that has resulted, again, in unprecedented pressure and isolation for the regime in Tehran.

There is still time and space for that course to be pursued because the best way to ensure that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon, does not acquire a nuclear weapon, is to force and compel Iran to make the decision that it needs to forego its nuclear weapons ambitions, get right with the world, abide by its international obligations under the United Nations and rejoin the community of nations by doing so.

It is also the case that this president has made absolutely clear that he does not remove any option from the table in terms of fulfilling his commitment to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. And we've also made clear that the window of opportunity here in terms of pursuing the diplomatic course will not remain open indefinitely.

What is a fact is that we have eyes onto the Iranian nuclear program, and we would be aware of any so-called breakout move by the Iranians towards building a nuclear weapon. That has not occurred. But that window of opportunity will close at some point, and Iran needs to take seriously its responsibilities and to forego and forsake its nuclear weapons ambitions.

14. There may be lessons learned from this incident, still coping with situation

Q: I want to go back to Jake's question for a minute, because it seems like what he's asking is not what the cause of the unrest was, but whether there are lessons to be learned by this administration or by the State Department or by the military about safeguarding diplomatic personnel or restricting their movements, especially in a country as volatile as Libya.

MR. CARNEY: Well, this is under active investigation, and it certainly is a reasonable question. And it stands to reason that there may be lessons learned, as there always are when you have investigations into incidents like this. My point was simply that, you know, we are responding to and coping with and dealing with, with countries around the globe, unrest brought about by this offensive video and taking action to ensure that security is enhanced and augmented at diplomatic facilities around the globe.

15. Egypt is a critical strategic partner of the U.S., Morsi's condolences, Egypt will ensure safety of American personnel

Q: On Egypt, can you clear up whether the country is an ally or not? The State Department says it is. The president says it's not an ally, but it's not an enemy.

MR. CARNEY: I think you hear -- you may have heard me anyway address this yesterday.

Let me be clear: Egypt is a critical strategic partner of the United States. As you know, the president had an important conversation with President Morsi very early yesterday morning -- very late at night in Colorado about the need to protect our embassy and our personnel in Cairo and the need to denounce the violence. President Morsi expressed his condolences for the tragic loss of American life in Libya and emphasized that Egypt would honor its obligation to ensure the safety of American personnel. The very -- the president is very appreciative of the statement President Morsi made and for the actions he has taken to date to secure our embassy.

Let me make clear that the president's interview with Telemundo was not in any way an effort to change our relationship with Egypt. We have had a long-standing partnership with Egypt and

have supported their transition to democracy, and we are now working to build our relationship with what is obviously a new government.

Q: (We're ?) told that the president was blunt and perturbed in that conversation with President Morsi. What was he concerned specifically about when it comes to the way that President Morsi handled the early hours of this unrest?

MR. CARNEY: The president was very clear with President Morsi about Egypt's responsibilities as a host nation to provide security to diplomatic facilities and diplomatic personnel. And it was a very productive conversation, as I said yesterday, and it was substantive and long.

I wouldn't necessarily use the adjectives you did to describe how the president felt about the call. In fact, I mean, it was a very focused and productive conversation.

16. Was there a review of security at diplomatic installations?

Q: Folks at State have said that there was a review of security at diplomatic installations in light of the upcoming 9/11 anniversary. Was there also a review in light of the possible impact of the trailers from this film?

MR. CARNEY: I would refer you to the State Department -- again, that there is always, annually as well as at other moments -- predicted -- predictable moments on the calendar, measures taken, precautions taken with regards to security both at our facilities abroad, but of course here in the United States. And we've been transparent in briefing you about when those moments occur and the -- and some of the things that are done to help enhance security.

With regards to specific preparations for 9/11, I would refer you to the State Department for -- as it applies to diplomatic installations.

Q: (Off mic) -- you suggest that the impact of the film was less predictable?

MR. CARNEY: I'm -- well, I'm saying that the fact that the film had -- was about to inspire this reaction -- well, you know, again, I don't want to -- this is all under investigation, so I don't want to get that far ahead of -- or get ahead of -- at all of an investigation.

I would refer you, again, to the State Department for whatever precautions were taken for diplomatic facilities in the run-up to the 9/11 anniversary.

17. President is voracious consumer of daily briefing and information from national security team

Q: There's also a lot of attention on how the president gets his daily briefing, at least in recent days, and the indications are that it has been in written form the past week or so. Is it your sense that a briefing in person is no more -- no more efficient, no more effective than giving the president his PDB -- (inaudible)?

MR. CARNEY: Well, let's be clear because the selective representation of the facts about the last few days -- just in the last 24 hours, the president has been briefed numerous times directly by National Security Adviser Tom Donilon, by Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough, by Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Adviser John Brennan and others, including a secure call at 2 p.m. yesterday and another briefing at 10 p.m. yesterday, and he did -- as he does every day, obviously, have a presidential daily briefing today and constant updates from his team.

I would say that this debate, when you say there's been some criticism -- the quarters from which that criticism come are pretty clear, and who occupies those quarters are pretty -- is pretty clear. And I would simply say that this president is an absolutely responsible and voracious consumer of his presidential daily briefing and of the information provided to him by his national security team. His record of evaluating and acting on intelligence, I think, speaks for itself, and I'll leave it at that.

Q: Is the criticism less valid because of the quarters from where it comes?
The question remains whether --

MR. CARNEY: He gets his -- but what is the question? He gets his presidential daily briefing every day. He has --

Q: The -- (inaudible) -- president speaks directly to his national security adviser. Obviously the suggestion here is that's a more efficient way of communicating than getting a written briefing. He --

MR. CARNEY: No, he gets both. He does both. He does both all the time -- all the time. And when he is here in Washington, he has briefings in person in the Oval Office with his national security team regularly. And when he is on the road, he has phone conversations that supplement and augment these briefings he receives on paper that are specific to the so-called PDB. I hardly think that is different from previous presidents. And again -- well, I'll leave it at that.

18. Report on intelligence about Benghazi false

Q: You had an answer in the previous questions that said there's no actionable -- there was no actionable intelligence with regard to the facility in Benghazi, the consulate in Benghazi itself. Can you say the same with the rest of Libya and the rest of the Middle East?

MR. CARNEY: I would refer you to the DNI and to others. I -- the report was -- I mean, I just -- I -- the report was specific to Benghazi. And we know for a fact that that report is false.

Q: And what -- I mean, the Cairo embassy was breached as well. Was there any intelligence that would lead to --

MR. CARNEY: I haven't asked that question, so I'll have to take the question.

19. Are America's relations with the Muslim world worse off now? -- Middle East has undergone historic change

Q: OK. And in a larger sense, does the president or does the White House feel that relations with the Muslim world in general, and the Middle East and Arab countries in particular, are better now than when he took office?

MR. CARNEY: We have witnessed historic change in the region in just the last few years. This president's approach to what has been called the Arab Spring, to this unrest, has been to lay out a set of principles and support for human rights and to make clear that we support a process of nonviolent political and economic change and reform in the region.

That looks different in different countries. There are countries where the transition has occurred or is occurring, like Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Tunisia. And in those countries we are working to help those new governments consolidate their democracies, deal with security needs and stabilize their economies.

In other places like Syria that are still in the throes of a revolution, we have vocally opposed the brutality of the regime and are supporting the aspirations of the people. You've heard us document and discuss the nonlethal support we're providing to the opposition, the over \$100 million in humanitarian aid that we're supplying to the Syrian people and the diplomatic support that we've provided them.

You know, this is a circumstance of dramatic change that has coming because of a fervent desire by people of the region -- (audio break) -- greater freedoms, greater control over their lives -- (audio break) -- have actively engaged in the region to support nonviolent democratic transition, to support governments that profess and demonstrate support for civil rights of all peoples, both genders and minorities.

And, you know, we are working with these countries to help them progress in a way that is better for the people of those countries and better for the national security interests of the United States.

20. Unrest is reaction to film, U.S. protects freedom of speech

Q: (Off mic) -- I just -- all great intentions. At this moment, embassies across the region are under siege, so it appears that the message isn't getting through.

MR. CARNEY: Well, I appreciate the question, or the statement, rather, but the unrest that we've seen is in reaction to a film with which the United States government had no involvement, which we have denounced as offensive.

And as I said yesterday, obviously it can be difficult to understand, in some countries, why the United States can't simply eliminate this kind of expression. But as you know, it is in the absolute core of our being as Americans that we allow freedom of expression. It is written into our Constitution and is one of our fundamental principles. And protecting speech, even offensive speech, is a foundational principle of our democracy.

But we can nevertheless denounce and condemn expressions of speech that we find offensive. And we have made that clear around the world, as well as here in the United States.

21. U.S. denounces (not apologizes for) video, cannot and will not squelch freedom of expression

Q: I think you just answered my question. Muslims -- the Muslim Brotherhood in both Egypt and Tunisia have suggested they want the U.S., the Obama administration, to apologize for this video. Is that something you all have considered doing or have done?

MR. CARNEY: Absolutely not. We have made clear that we find it offensive and reprehensible and disgusting. But we -- I mean, it -- if in that sense you mean -- I mean, we have denounced it. We are -- we have said we find it offensive and reprehensible, but we will not -- you know, we cannot and will not squelch freedom of expression in this country.

It is a -- it is a foundational principle of this nation.

Q: Jay, freedom of the expression issues aside, do you know if any government agencies are trying to get to the bottom of who produced this video? Is there any -- (inaudible) --

MR. CARNEY: I don't. I've seen a lot of reporters attempting to find out its origin, but I have not heard of any -- but I just -- you would have to direct that at some other agencies. But I -- not that I'm aware of.

Q: Do you -- do you see any reason for any federal agencies to look into it?

MR. CARNEY: I don't. I -- I mean, I think, based on what I've just said, the issue here isn't -- you know, we all know what the -- what the film is and its contents and understand why it is offensive to Muslims. We also understand that there is no justification for violence in reaction to that and have made that message clear around the world. We've -- the president's made statements, the secretary of state, we have consulted with leaders -- Muslim leaders around the world and asked them to make clear that violence is not an acceptable response to this film.

Q: Was the president made aware of this film before or after the violence -- (off mic)?

MR. CARNEY: Made aware of the film?

Q: Right.

MR. CARNEY: I --

Q: Because it seems like you're pinning a lot of this on the film. I'm just curious when the president was aware of a film that could be potentially incendiary.

MR. CARNEY: I would have to take the question. I'm not aware of -- I certainly wasn't aware of the film before there was unrest related to it.

Q: OK. And if I could just follow up on -- you earlier said the course -- the cause of the unrest was a video, then you (redid ?) that similar -- something similar (later on ?). That -- I just want to be clear -- that's true of Benghazi and Cairo?

MR. CARNEY: I'm saying that that -- what -- the incident in Benghazi, as well as elsewhere -- these are all being investigated -- what I'm saying is that we have no evidence at this time to suggest otherwise, that there was a preplanned or ulterior instigation behind that unrest.

22. Carney: I don't believe the White House asked Youtube to take the video down

Q: Jay, did the White House ask YouTube to take that video down?

MR. CARNEY: I'm sorry, I'd have to -- I don't believe so, but I'll have to -- I'll have to take that question.

Q: Or anybody in the administration?

MR. CARNEY: I -- we'll have to take it.

Q: And on the Chicago teacher strike --

MR. CARNEY: I believe -- I mean, it wasn't -- again, I'm just -- based on press reports, it was taken down in the -- in the region, right, not everywhere? Yeah, I'll have to -- I'll have to take --

Q: (Off mic) -- intervened or made a request or anything like that?

MR. CARNEY: Let me take that.

23. Morsi call discussed need to secure diplomatic facilities and personnel, important strategic partnership with Egypt

Q: Can you go back a little bit on the call that he made to the president of Egypt? What -- was anything in particular that prompted that call? And apparently they've erected a new fence, a wall, overnight, a concrete wall. Was that discussed during the call with the president? Was anyone --

MR. CARNEY: I don't think specific measures we discussed. The point of the call -- I remember he made several -- he has made several calls to leaders in the region -- was to discuss with them the unrest and the measures that these countries are taking to ensure the security of diplomatic facilities and American personnel. And that was the -- that was the crux of the conversation with President Morsi.

Q: (Off mic) -- he expressed displeasure with the initial reaction from the Egyptian government and asked them to --

MR. CARNEY: We gave a readout of the call. I don't really have more for that -- more on that for you. I think he made clear that we have an important strategic partnership with Egypt. We are working very closely with Egypt and the government there to assist it in, you know, helping it stabilize the situation in the country and helping its economy improve as it transitions to democracy.

But the president also made clear that Egypt has obligations, as do other countries in the region and countries all over the world, to ensure that diplomatic representations in those countries are secure. The whole point of embassies and diplomatic facilities -- the purpose behind them is to allow for the peaceful interaction between nations to build relationships, build partnerships and to avoid conflict. And that is why it is so important that embassies, consulates, other facilities and personnel are protected.

24. U.S. remains vigilant of unrest, tries to get out message that video has nothing to do with U.S. policy

Q: Jay, you were talking about the U.S. experience with reactions to either accidental or purposeful anti-Muslim -- burning of Qurans, et cetera. So my question is: For U.S. personnel who are abroad who are -- who are seeing this erupt now over what you're saying is, as far as we know, just based on a film -- purportedly by anti-Muslim folks -- is there concern in the U.S. government that this would encourage others who have these motivations to continue trying to inject these thoughts into that part of the world where this reaction could be predicted? And is the United States or the government making any additional effort to either surveil to protect, you know, American personnel or monitor this information or to consider this almost like an act of war, to be continuing to inject that kind of thought into that region?

MR. CARNEY: Alexis, I think we have, as a nation, been in a posture, especially since 9/11 but even prior to that, where we have monitored and been aware of anti-American sentiment in that region of the world and elsewhere.

And obviously we are absolutely vigilant and continue to be. And that is the work of many agencies, in particular the intelligence community.

I -- you know, we have seen -- since 9/11 we have seen periods like this, where there has been an unrest in reaction to specific incidents, including Danish cartoons and including other incidents that have taken place that have offended Muslims in different countries and led to unrest directed at either the West or specifically at the United States.

And this is something that both this administration and the prior administration have had to manage. And in terms of policy, we continue to make clear that in this case we find the video reprehensible and disgusting. We continue to try to get the message out as broadly as we can, that this video is -- has nothing to do, is not in any way related to the American government. It does not represent who we are or what we believe.

And we continue to pursue policies in the region that are aimed at helping these countries that are in transition through this traumatic transformation that's happening towards democracy, towards a better future and towards, we hope and are working for, a stronger, better relationship with the United States.

25. Focus should be on the four Americans lost in Libya, will debate foreign policy later

Q: Jay, notwithstanding your explanations today for the reasons for the violence in the Middle East, there are Republicans -- Donald Rumsfeld, John McCain -- who say the attacks on our diplomatic posts in the Middle East are a result of perceived American weakness. Do you want to respond to that?

MR. CARNEY: I'll just go back to what I said, which is that this is a time when it's in the best interests of the country to focus on the four personnel, the four Americans that we lost in Libya and who are returning home today and on the measures that we need to take as a nation to deal with the unrest in the region and deal with the security of our diplomatic facilities and personnel abroad.

We are happy to debate -- and there is certainly ample time and appropriate times to debate foreign policy approaches, this president's record on foreign policy, and contrast it to other approaches and other records. And there will actually be a formal occasion in which foreign policy will be debated as part of the presidential campaign debates, and I'm sure there'll be much discussion of it prior to and after that debate. We're very proud of the president's record on foreign policy and are happy to make the case at the appropriate time.

26. Investigating attack, do not have concrete evidence to suggest it was not in reaction to the film

Q: (Off mic) -- question (while ?) we were sitting here, Secretary Panetta and the vice chair of the joint chiefs briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the senators came out and said their indication was that this -- for the attack on Benghazi -- was a terrorist attack organized and carried out by terrorists, that it was premeditated, a calculated act of terror. Levin said -- Senator Levin, I think it was a planned premeditated attack, the kind of equipment that they had used. There is evidence it was a planned premeditated attack. Is there anything more you can -- now that the administration is briefing senators on this, is there anything more you can tell us?

MR. CARNEY: Right. Well, I think we wait to hear from administration officials. Again, it's actively under investigation, both the Benghazi attack and incidents elsewhere, you know. And my point was that at -- we don't have and did not have concrete evidence to suggest that this was not in reaction to the film.

But we're obviously investigating the matter, and, you know, I'll certainly -- you know, I'm sure both Department of Defense and the White House and other places will have more to say about that as more information becomes available.

Statements from World and Religious Leaders on Violence and Video

Libyan President Mohammed Magariaf

"We apologize to the U.S., to the American people and to the government and also to the rest of the world for what happened yesterday. And at the same time, we expect the world to cooperate with us to confront to what is meant out of this kind of act of cowardice."

He added: "What happened yesterday also happened to be on 11 September, which has its own significance, and we reject strongly all attempts to use our land to stage revenge attacks".

He added: "The Libyan people, who made the world happy during their revolution, reject any attempt to steal their revolution or hijack it or derail it from leading to a modern, democratic state."

Al-Magaryaf went on to say: "The interim government has done everything it can to protect embassies, consulates and companies in the country."

Moroccan Foreign Minister Al-Othmani

(Remarks at the Department of State)

13 September 2012

I would like to express my sincere condolences of the American people and the government for the death of the U.S. Ambassador in Libya and the other diplomats. We condemn this act of violence and we share the sorrow of their families and the American people.

(Via interpreter) Madam Secretary, honored, distinguished audience, I would like to thank Madam Secretary for the clear positions and frank positions that she expressed today. And these are positions that indicate that you have a balanced and prudent policy. And I would like to confirm that yesterday, with instructions from His Majesty King Mohammed VI, there was a clear message from Morocco issued by the Moroccan Government that condemned the attack that took place on the U.S. Consulate in Libya, and also condemned the killing of diplomats – of American diplomats, innocent diplomats who work – who should be protected because they're ambassadors and diplomats.

Also, once again, would like to reiterate Morocco's clear position against violence and against any confrontation as a way to solve problems and settle conflicts. Morocco has always been – has always stressed peace and security, while also maintaining the positions of each person, but solving problems through dialogue and conviction, but within the framework of peace and stability.

At the same time, I would like to thank Madam Secretary for her clear position vis-a-vis the video that attacks the Prophet and also for her position against this insult, and I would like to say that the Kingdom of Morocco also has the same position. We say all prophets should be respected and should not be attacked or insulted. We respect Prophet Moses and Jesus and

Muhammad and all prophets because they are symbols for humanity, for the entire humanity, and insulting them is an insult to millions of human beings who respect them and hold them in high esteem. And any kind of insult would only provoke hate and conflict between people. And we live in a world that is tired of conflict. It's tired of hate. And it needs policies that promote peace and security.

Speech by Egyptian President Mursi in joint news conference with his Italian counterpart in Rome
14 September 2012

Thank you Mr President for these words and for this greeting, thank you all for attending.

I feel a spirit of real friendship while holding these talks during my visit to Italy following the visits yesterday with the EU and EU officials, and a quick visit with the prime minister in Belgium, but there is no doubt that relations between Egypt and Italy are historical and important, and we now make great steps on this track to make the relations more distinguished and stronger in all fields.

We thank the president, the prime minister, the government and people of Italy for standing beside the Egyptian people during their revolution.

It is noteworthy that none of the Italian companies operating in Egypt stopped their work during and after the revolution and during this transitional period. Rather, their production increased. Also, the decrease in the number of Italian tourists in Egypt was limited during and after the revolution and the number is now increasing and becoming bigger than before the revolution.

The talks we held today are complementary to yesterday's talks with the Italian prime minister and the government. We handled many issues, as my dear president explained. Among these issues was the Italian support, by the people, government and leadership, to the Egyptian people in their democratic process, in the democratic transition, in the establishment of new Egypt; the freedom; Egypt the country of citizenship; a country that is based on citizenship and democracy, the respect of constitution and law; a modern country.

We have made a great progress in this process in Egypt, and we now move in the direction of comprehensive development and economic development. In this regard, our friends, Italy is at the top, supporting us and cooperating with us in all these fields.

There is no doubt that international peace needs communication, understanding, and mutual respect; respect of beliefs, respect of diversity and respect of opinions, and the existence of diverse opinions.

Peace cannot be achieved unless there is mutual respect among all peoples in the world. We in Egypt are committed to this. We respect this diversity, and [have] contact with all nations of the world.

The Egyptian nation respects all nations. The Egyptian people have an ancient civilization, and are now making a quantum leap in the field of public freedoms, the achievement of justice, equality and social justice, fair distribution of wealth, the great renaissance we look forward to, and the stability we aspire [to achieve].

The Egyptian people are also moving towards the world and opening all doors to all in the East and the West; all doors are opened, but not at the expense of others. We exert efforts, communicate in love. We came to you with a clear message of peace after Europe and many areas in the world suffered, and still suffer, from agonies of wars.

There is no way for this world to live in prosperity and stability but through genuine peace, which cannot be achieved through aggression against one another; individuals against individuals, nation against nation, or governments against governments.

As you know, what happened several days ago, that is the bad attempts - which we reject - to insult Prophet Muhammad of Islam. We reject this; the Egyptian people reject it, and antagonize those who did that. We'll never accept this. Also all free people in the world reject this. People and governments in Europe reject this; also in the east and west of the world; also the US people - I know, as the US president told me - reject this behavior. We all stand against this behavior. We cannot accept this type of aggression or any attempt to burn the means of communication or to spread discord among people.

All of us in the world have to realize that these immature and bad actions yield no good [results]; rather they draw attention away from the real problems in this world, like the problem in Syria, the issue of Palestine and Palestinians, the instability and lack of peace in the Middle East.

We all realize that this will not derail us from accomplishing our main mission. We are going ahead with achieving peace in the region. We are keen on that peace.

I talked with the president about this, and this is unacceptable.

Islam, as you know, respects beliefs [of others], respects the others, is keen on the achievement of freedom. All humans are respected and have rights. [Koranic verse] "We have honored the sons of Adam."

People have the right to believe as they like. No coercion in religion, and no coercion in belief. No restriction of opinions. So, all should do and realize that.

All attendants, Mr President, I look forward to a more peaceful future, and more cooperative future. I look forward to extending the hand of cooperation to all nations. I also look forward to very distinguished ties with Italy in all fields, industry, agriculture, trade, exchange of expertise, development, research, and modern science in the light of genuine peace and distinguished relations.

We in Egypt said quite clearly that we never accept the killing of innocents, attacks on embassies, consulates or diplomatic corps. It is our duty and the duty of all governments in the

world to protect diplomatic missions, tourists, ambassadors, and public and private property. And we in Egypt as part of this world will do that.

We flatly and strongly reject any kind of attack on or murder of these [innocent] people. We completely reject this. And I stressed in my words in the last days in various occasions that we extend condolences to the US people over those killed in Benghazi. The Libyan people are against this, as their leaders said. We in Egypt - leaders and people - are against this. In our perspective, the killing of people is prohibited. [Koranic verse] "If any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people."

I thank the president for these useful and constructive talks and for this pleasant atmosphere. I wish you all best of luck, and look forward to better and stronger ties between us and Italy in the future.

Thank you very much.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Quotes from H.E Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Speech Delivered at
Yalta Annual Meeting
September 14, 2012

Today is the holy Friday. We should be very careful against provocations that may lead to violence, terror and harming innocent people. In Friday, we do pray and gather in the name of our high values. We should protect our values with utmost care and remain committed to the sense of Alliance of Civilizations. We should never be deceived by the provocations. I want to remind the Muslims of the world one more time. The movie was a serious provocation and a highly serious instigation. Those who have resorted to violence seek to launch provocations against Muslims and we do not accept it. We can never accept it. An insult on the high values of Islam and Holy Prophet Muhammad cannot be branded freedom of expression or beliefs. Insults on religions, Prophets and sacred values cannot be interpreted within the context of freedom of ideas or criticism. Such offensive approaches harm the realm of thought, belief and criticism. This is also a cause and effect relationship. Therefore, as leaders, we should take necessary precautions against such provocative movements. The movie insulting Islam and Prophet Muhammad is an open provocation and a hostile action. All of us must strongly and decisively condemn such actions in the name of fundamental human rights and world peace. While peaceful protests are legitimate and components of democracy, violence and terrorism cannot be seen in this context. In this regard, I strongly condemn the terrorist attacks against the US Embassy in Libya killing innocent people.

This is neither conscientiously nor Islamic. Islam, advising peace to all humanity, condemns terrorist actions causing harm to innocent people. Nobody can put the blame on Islam to justify terrorist actions and acts of violence such as the attack on the USA

diplomatic mission in Libya. Those perpetrating such actions exploiting Islamic discourse and symbols are the ones that cause the most damage to the Muslims. Therefore, both the mentality and organization behind this movie and those perpetrating terrorist actions exploiting Islamic symbols and discourse must be condemned vehemently."

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia today condemned the violent reactions in a number of countries against U.S. interests and the film that is offensive to the Prophet Mohammed.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed condolences and sympathy to the United States of America over the victims of the violent acts in Libya, which targeted the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi," an official source said in a statement. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also deplored a film that is offensive to Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) produced by an irresponsible group in the United States of America, confirming the Kingdom's rejection of all acts that harm religions and their symbols," the official source added.

Tunisia Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali

TUNIS (TAP) - Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali condemned, on Thursday, "the attacks that target diplomatic missions" which are offered immunity by international tradition and Islamic teachings.

In a communiqué made public by the Prime Ministry, following Wednesday's "terrorist attack" on the American consulate in Benghazi, and killing the U.S. Ambassador and three of his associates, Mr. Hamadi Jebali extended his heartfelt condolences to the family of the defunct and to the American government.

The Prime Minister reasserted "Tunisia's commitment to comply with the international customs that guarantee protection of the diplomatic missions and safety of all representations, as well as all tourists and visitors it hosts."

Statement by Egyptian President Mursi 13 September 2012

In the name of God; Islamic sanctities, the Prophet (peace be upon him) is a red line to all of us, Muslims. All Muslims reject any sort of violation or offence against our Prophet Muhammad

(peace be upon him). All of us redeem the Prophet with our souls and hearts. We do not accept at all; we condemn and antagonize [anybody] who assaults or attacks our Prophet (peace be upon him) by words, deeds, or terms. This attitude is rejected by all Muslims and all Egyptians. Expressing the entire Egyptian people, I condemn and confront everybody who makes any sort of offence against the Prophet (peace be upon him), or any of our Islamic sanctities by words or deeds.

We say to those irresponsible people, who want to foment sedition and fuel conflicts among peoples: You will not succeed; you will have no place on this soil.

I know that peoples of the free world, peace-loving people of the world, condemn, reject and stand up to this. This is what I want to stress on our part.

At the same time, all of us realize that Islam rejects the [violation of] the sanctity of life, the killing of innocent people, and the aggression against any people.

Expression of opinion, freedom of demonstrating and announcement of positions are guaranteed, but there should be no violation against public or private properties, diplomatic missions or embassies.

It is our duty to protect our guests and those who come to us from the outside world, protect the places where they live, and protect their work. This lies at the core of our religion. All of us should fulfil this duty. Thus, I call on everybody to take this into consideration, and not to commit any violation or assaults on embassies, consulates diplomatic missions, or public or private properties owned by Egyptians or foreigners.

I know well that the conscious Egyptians would not do that. Those who attack embassies do not represent us. All of us should cooperate in expressing our opinion, while preserving our principles and peaceful, righteous means, on which the whole world agrees with us.

At the same time, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Egyptian people, I offer my sincere condolences and feeling of sympathy, and [express] rejection of the killing of the US ambassador and those who were with him in Benghazi. We reject this and so does Islam. To God, the sanctity of life is greater than the sanctity of Al-Ka'bah. Our Prophet (peace be on him), whom we defend taught us this. We defend our Prophet and antagonize those who commit any offence against him, wherever they come from.

This morning I spoke with the US president, and stressed the necessity of taking legal deterrent procedures against those who sabotage relations among peoples, especially between the US and Egyptian peoples.

This act was committed before by this person who offended Qur'an. Now he tries desperately [in cooperation] with others to insult the Prophet (peace be upon him). I stressed to the US president that this is rejected and cannot be accepted. We realize the civilized nature of the US people and assert that the Egyptian people is no less civilized, no less keen to preserve international relations and peace, than any people of the world.

We reject what happened in Libya. And I know well that the Libyan people and leadership reject this, and they announced this clearly.

I assert to everybody that we are against anybody who violates sanctities. But all of us antagonize those who attack our sanctities or Prophet (peace be upon him). And all of us stand up firmly to them. This does not mean that we offend anybody or act in the same way or commit any sort of violation against others.

'If anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or (and) to spread mischief in the land - it would be as if he killed all mankind, and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind'.

This is our stance and this is our religion. We do not assault anybody and never accept assault against us or our sanctities. The Egyptian state is able to protect its soil, people, guests, diplomatic missions, embassies, hotels, consulates and all properties owned by Egyptians and those who live in Egypt. We spare no effort to protect them.

God willing, nobody will never be offended. We are keen on that. We interact with the whole world in a peaceful way; we hope that peace would extend to the whole world.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Embassy of the Republic of Yemen, Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen, extends his sincere apologies to President Obama and to the people of the United States of America for the attack that occurred earlier today on the U.S. embassy in Sana'a, Yemen.

President Hadi ordered the authorities to conduct an expeditious and thorough investigation into today's events. H.E. ensured the public that the perpetrators of these acts will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. H.E. described the protesters as a "rowdy group" that acted without any knowledge on conspiracies to derail Yemeni-American relations. H.E. also highlighted that the divisions among Yemen's security and military forces due to the 2011 events have contributed to the amplification of the incident. H.E. warned the public that such acts will reflect negatively on the warm relations between Yemen and the American public.

**Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General
Attack against United States Consulate in Benghazi, Libya
New York, 12 September 2012**

The Secretary-General is deeply saddened by yesterday's attack against the United States Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, resulting in the deaths of four US diplomats, including Ambassador John Christopher Stevens, as well as Libyan employees of the Consulate. The Secretary-General condemns this attack in the strongest terms. The Secretary-General extends his condolences to the United States Government and to the bereaved Libyan and American families.

The United Nations rejects defamation of religion in all forms. At the same time, nothing justifies the brutal violence which occurred in Benghazi yesterday. The Secretary-General reminds the Libyan authorities of their obligations to protect diplomatic facilities and personnel. He welcomes statements by Libyan authorities that they will bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Secretary-General reiterates the commitment of the United Nations to continue working with the Government and the people of Libya as they strive to bring stability to their country.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu strongly condemned the tragic killing of the US Ambassador to Libya along with three other Consulate officials in Benghazi. In a statement issued in Jeddah today, the OIC Secretary General said that he was shocked by the reprehensible act which could not be condoned on any grounds. He also expressed grave concern about the attack at the US Embassy in Cairo.

He said the violence that had emanated from emotions aroused by a production of a film had hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims. The two incidents demonstrated serious repercussions of abuse of freedom of expression that OIC had consistently been warning against.

The OIC Secretary General added that while the film was a deplorable act of incitement, resorting to violence resulting in loss of innocent lives could not be condoned. The OIC Secretary General called for restraint and urged the concerned law enforcing officials to take all necessary measures to bring the situation under control.

He added that the international community could not be held hostage to the acts of extremists on either side. The Secretary General believed that the solution could only be found by addressing the issues pertaining to the freedom of religion and freedom of expression through structured international engagement and referred to the OIC initiative embodied in UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 and the Istanbul Process for its consensual implementation which provide with the avenues for such engagement.

The Freedom and Justice Party

The Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) affirms that peaceful expression of protest against the latest anti-Islam film is both the right and the duty of all Egyptian people, Muslims and Christians alike, to voice their anger for the honor of Prophet Mohammed, and to counter all attempts to ignite sedition between the two elements of this great nation.

The FJP urges Egyptian demonstrators outside the U.S. Embassy to show restraint and express their anger in a way that reflects and demonstrates the greatness of Islam and how it respects heavenly religions, as an integral part of Muslims' faith.

The FJP further calls upon protesters to keep these demonstrations within the bounds of the law, as a peaceful expression of condemnation of the latest anti-Islam film and other such ignoble productions.

The FJP stresses that Islam ordains protection of non-Muslims as well as facilities such as embassies and consulates. Egyptian and international laws also make that protection an obligation.

Therefore, Egyptian people must not allow anyone to tarnish our image and plunge the whole country in a new wave of sedition and chaos.

The FJP also urges restraint by Egyptian and U.S. embassy security personnel, so they would not resort to violence, in order not to further inflame the already explosive situation.

The FJP affirms its rejection of the attack on the U.S. Embassy and all other embassies, consulates and missions; and it denounces intimidation of embassy and other employees. It further condemns the killing of the U.S. Ambassador in Libya and other members of staff.

However, the FJP calls upon the U.S. administration to take serious and concrete steps to stop this abusive film and other highly offensive productions showing hatred and extremism against Arabs and Muslims.

The US must enforce the laws firmly and punish those who produce and promote such abusive material, so as to prevent the recurrence of such criminal acts rejected by civilized peoples and all heavenly religions, especially since Arab peoples no longer react so passively as they did in the past, after the revolutions in which they fought for their freedom and dignity.

The FJP renews the call it originally made years ago through the Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary bloc in the People's Assembly of 2000 and 2005, and in which it urged relevant states and governments, international organizations and institutions concerned with preserving values and freedoms, to issue international conventions to criminalize the abuse of sacred symbols and personalities of heavenly religions and to consider that those who break this law threaten international peace and security and as such punishable by law.

General National Congress of Libya

The General National Congress of Libya (GNC) and the Transitional Government wish to express their strong condemnation and disapproval for the criminal attack on the American Consulate in Benghazi yesterday, the death of his Excellency the US Ambassador and 3 staff members, injury to numerous people, and damage to the building. We emphasize that this disgraceful act is contrary to the teachings of our values and religion, as well as the Islamic and Arabic cultural norms of hospitality. During a time when we strongly condemn any attempt to abuse or insult the Prophet

This criminal act has coincided with numerous attempts of those who seek to hamper the democratic aspirations of Libya. They have taken a stance against the GNC and Transitional Government in order to spoil the joy of the Libyan people and derail what has been accomplished in Libya, and to obstruct our progress, which includes capturing some of the ex-regime members like Abdulla Al Sanousi. This confirms that the cowardly act comes as part of a series of incidents of the 2/17 revolution, which conspires to thwart the security of the country.

After the joint meeting which lasted until the early morning between the GNC and Transitional Government and its many members and security and military offices, some strict legal measurements were taken to put a stronghold on the offenders and bring them to justice, in protection of the national and homeland security. Also, a united entity was formed between the GNC and Transitional Government to follow up on the security situation and specifically to ensure that security measures are taken. There will be constant communication and we confirm that no one will flee or be at large from justice and accountability.

Also, the GNC and Transitional Government present in the name of the Libyan people their deepest condolences to the US Government, the American people, the families of the Ambassador and victims, and confirm the close ties between Libya and the United States, which have become even closer since the decision of the American government to support the revolution of 2/17.

In conclusion, we assure that diplomatic delegations, foreign companies and expatriates in Libya are under the protection of our security, which shall ensure their safety. We call for all of the Libyan people and the Libyan institutions to stand as a united front against anyone who tries to undermine Libyan safety, thwart the potential of Libya or distort the Libyan image.

Press Release

September 13, 2012

US President Obama and Secretary Clinton call President Karzai to Discuss Issues of Mutual Interest

President Obama called President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday evening, condemning the film that insults Prophet Mohannad (PBUH).

In the phone conversation, President Karzai and President Obama denounced the film and termed it as insulting to Islamic beliefs and values.

The two Presidents also discussed the tragic incidents that took place in Benghazi city of Libya, where U.S. diplomats were killed. President Karzai offered condolences to his US counterpart for the tragic loss of American life.

Moreover, President Karzai talked with Obama on US commitment to transferring the rest of Afghan detainees to Afghan authority as well as underscored that as per the MoU signed between the two governments, issue of the handover of the detainees is very important for Afghanistan's sovereignty which has to be taken into account.

With respect to Afghan sovereignty, President Obama reaffirmed his commitment to transferring detainees to Afghan authority.

The two Presidents agreed to speak again soon on the issue via teleconference.

On the same evening, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also called President Karzai and discussed the above issues.

Egyptian Prime Minister Hesham Kandil

"What happened at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo is regrettable and rejected by all Egyptian people and cannot be justified, especially if we consider that the people who produced this low film have no relation to the U.S. government. We ask the American government to take a firm position toward this filmmakers within the framework of international charters that criminalize acts that stir strife on the basis of race, color or religion."

U.S.-Based statements

Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH) Condemns Attack in Libya

ISGH mourns the loss of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, and other members of the US Libyan diplomatic mission in this act of senseless killing in Libya, and in no uncertain words, we condemn this heinous crime.

We have a message to these people who claim to have done this in the name of Islam:

First, the Quran is very explicit; whoever kills an innocent person is as if he has killed all of humankind (5:32). Second, Islam is a religion of law; not of lawlessness. No person has the right to be plaintiff, judge and executioner. It is therefore the obligation of the Libyan government to track down the criminals and bring them to justice.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family of Ambassador Chris Stevens and the others, who sacrificed their lives to help the Libyan people in their struggle for independence and democracy.

We must amplify the voices of moderation and strengthen the moderates who stand for justice and peaceful coexistence.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families on this painful day. We stand in solidarity with President Obama and members of the United States Department of State serving throughout the world, and support them in their continued resolve to combat the spread of extremism.

American Islamic Congress

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12, 2012 – The American Islamic Congress (AIC) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of four fellow Americans killed in Benghazi, Libya yesterday, including U.S. Ambassador to Libya John Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and two other civilians yet to be named by the U.S. Department of State.

AIC joins the nation in mourning the tragic loss of life and in expressing our sympathies to the families, friends and colleagues of these brave Americans who were in Libya to serve our country. AIC, in the strongest of terms, unequivocally condemns these attacks against our diplomatic missions in Benghazi and Cairo. The taking of these innocent lives is not justifiable for any reason. While details continue to emerge about yesterday's deplorable incidents, AIC is more determined than ever to continue working on the ground in this region to encourage the growth of civil society and promote respect for human and civil rights, including free speech and religious freedom.

AIC also encourages responsible leaders to recognize that they carry the burden of confronting extremism and protecting the lives of civilians. AIC (www.aicongress.org) is a 501(c)3 organization with offices in Cairo, Tunis, Basrah, Baghdad, Boston and headquarters in Washington, D.C. AIC, which was founded just after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, is dedicated to religious understanding, civil rights and the strengthening of civil society throughout the world.

World Evangelical Alliance

WEA Condemns Defamatory Video and Violent Reaction in Libya New York, NY - September 12, 2012

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) joins others in condemning the violence in which the US ambassador to Libya and others have been killed in protest against an obscure and primitive video that defames Islam. The WEA is convinced that there can never be any justification for such violence. In this case it has cost the life of a diplomat – and the WEA sees the diplomatic community as crucial to the task of building mutual understanding in international relationships. The WEA also totally condemns the defamatory and insulting video. "We completely denounce the practice of Insulting and slandering adherents of other religions or their founders. Such inflammatory statements invariably arouse suspicion and confusion", says Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, Secretary General of the WEA.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Christian brothers and sisters in countries with Muslim majority populations in condemning both the video and the violence that has followed its publication."

The WEA calls on Christians and Muslims to press for calm in this current highly-charged atmosphere.

Recognizing that there are many radical differences between world views WEA believes that all people of every faith need to continue to build mechanisms for peaceful co-existence. The WEA is very committed to deepening relationships with those who see the world differently, as part of WEA's contribution to solving tensions around the world.

Muslim American Citizens Coalition and Public Affairs Council

The Directors and members of the Muslim American Citizens Coalition and Public Affairs Council (MACCPAC) are shocked and incensed by the senseless events in Cairo and Benghazi, and the murder of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three U.S. Diplomatic staff. This is not only a violation of International Law, but an action that violates every tenet of the Islamic faith, and of all human dignity and decency. No words can adequately express our revulsion, and how much we condemn these acts, and those who perpetrated them. We pray that these vicious criminals will be brought to justice swiftly and surely.

We are especially saddened to know that the brutal groups which provoked this violence did so in the name of Islam. It should be clear that they are merely using our faith to justify acts that Muslims around the world must repudiate and vehemently condemn. No one capable of the wanton murder of innocent victims, especially those who have dedicated their lives to helping Muslims in countries like Libya and Egypt, can legitimately call himself a Muslim. This is a sin of the greatest magnitude, which we believe can never be forgiven by the Almighty. We are equally troubled to learn these events may have been abetted by a misguided group in America that produced an unfortunate film seemingly designed to provoke intense reactions. While MACCPAC will always support Free Speech, we certainly hope that all people of sincere

goodwill and faith will refrain from actions akin to crying "fire" in a crowded movie theater. But even such imprudent actions like this film can never justify violence against anyone, which is unreservedly condemned by the teachings of the Quran and the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) himself. We pray for the victims of this and of all horrific acts of violence, and of any provocations designed to incite such violence.

Muslim Public Affairs Council

(Washington, DC - 9/12/12) -- The Muslim Public Affairs Council today strongly condemns the attacks on the U.S. Embassies in Cairo and Benghazi, Libya, and we grieve along with the rest of our nation over the deaths of four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens. These attacks were not just an attack on our embassies but on our nation as a whole.

The attacks come after a low-budget movie on YouTube called "Muhammad" incited anger by depicting Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in a demeaning and degrading manner. MPAC condemns the film and its desecration of religious symbols.

"This is a sad day for America as we mourn the deaths of four citizens who were living in a country to help Libyans achieve freedom," said Salam Al-Marayati, MPAC President. "It is deplorable and unfortunate that such an irrelevant film has succeeded in its objectives of causing violence and death in Egypt and Libya."

Earlier today, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton held a press conference at the White House about the attacks.

"No acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation," he said. "Make no mistake: Justice will be done to those responsible for this attack."

We call for the protection of all U.S. personnel throughout the world. We look to our Muslim leadership to reflect on how we have reached such an extreme point in our community.

Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) today condemned the "disgraceful" killings of American diplomats in Libya and said that extremists must not be allowed to control the political and religious discourse worldwide.

CAIR, a Washington-based Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, made that statement at a noon news conference today on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., at which representatives of CAIR and other Muslim organizations* condemned both the killings of the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other diplomats in that nation and the attack on the American embassy in Egypt.

[*NOTE: Other organizations represented at the news conference included the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), Muslim American Society - Public Affairs and Civic Engagement

(MAS-PACE), the Council of Muslim Organizations of the Greater Washington, D.C., Area (CMO), the Libyan Emergency Task Force, and Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center.]

In his prepared statement, CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad said: "We condemn the disgraceful killings of the American diplomats in Libya in the strongest terms possible. We also condemn the attack on our nation's diplomatic facilities in Libya and Egypt. The actions of the attackers are totally inexcusable and un-Islamic.

"We agree with Secretary Clinton, who said that 'violence like this is no way to honor religion or faith.' The extremists who carried out these attacks deserve punishment, and the extremists who produced and promoted an intentionally inflammatory film deserve condemnation." Islamic traditions include a number of instances in which the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had the opportunity to retaliate against those who abused him, but refrained from doing so. One tradition, or hadith, states: 'You [Muhammad] do not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you deal with them with forgiveness and kindness.' (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

"Muslims are also taught the tradition of the woman who would regularly throw trash on the prophet as he walked down a particular path. The prophet never responded in kind to the woman's abuse. Instead, when she one day failed to attack him, he went to her home to inquire about her condition.

"In another tradition, the prophet was offered the opportunity to have God punish the people of a town near Mecca who refused the message of Islam and attacked him with stones. Again, the prophet did not choose to respond in kind to the abuse. "We must not let extremists control the political or religious discourse. That means that people of all beliefs should repudiate those who would commit acts of violence in response to intentional provocations and repudiate those whose only goal is offending religious sentiments." CAIR yesterday called on Muslims in the Middle East to ignore the distribution of the "trashy" anti-Islam film, clips of which are circulating online, that resulted in the attacks in Libya and Egypt.

Interfaith Alliance

Washington, D.C.— Interfaith Alliance president Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy issued the following statement today following news of uprisings in Libya and Egypt that resulted in the death of the U.S. Ambassador to Libya and three members of his staff.

Our deepest condolences go out to the family, co-workers and friends of U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and his three colleagues. The tragic news of their killing in connection to the uprising that took place yesterday in Libya is a sad end to what was by all accounts an exemplary career. That this happened on September 11 only compounds the tragedy. Violence cannot be the basis for dialogue between the U.S. and the Arab world, and improved relations will be difficult until that is understood. At the same time, the anti-Muslim bigotry that has become all too pervasive in the United States is only amplified when it reaches the rest of the world and runs the risk of being perceived as the view of all Americans. That misconception is then used by those who seek to target Americans as a means of stirring up hatred among their followers.

The hateful film used as justification for this violence is of little relevance to the vast majority of Americans and certainly does not represent the views of the U.S. government. It is no excuse for

yesterday's violence, but Libya is a nation that is emerging from years of dictatorship where the mere existence of a film can be mistakenly understood to have the endorsement of the state in which it was created. Those responsible for these deaths must be brought to justice and going forward anger should be expressed through means that lead to productive dialogue.

The Interfaith Alliance celebrates religious freedom by championing individual rights, promoting policies that protect both religion and democracy, and uniting diverse voices to challenge extremism. Founded in 1994, the Interfaith Alliance has 185,000 members across the country from 75 faith traditions as well as those without a faith tradition. For more information, visit www.interfaithalliance.org.

Islamic Networks Group

Islamic Networks Group (ING) & its Affiliates across the nation condemn in the strongest possible terms the extremist attacks on U.S. diplomatic compounds in Libya and Egypt on Tuesday, September 11th, one of which killed U.S. ambassador to Libya Christopher Stephens along with three of his staff members. The parties responsible for these events in both nations claimed to be reacting to an online film considered offensive to Islam.

As with previous instances of the Danish cartoons or Qur'an burning, it is important to emphasize that it is a greater defamation of the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and the Qur'an to react with violence and murder of innocent people-- one of the greatest sins in Islam-- than any claimed insult from an Islamophobic film. Those who responded in such a manner should instead study the Prophet Muhammad's example in the face of harm. On a daily basis, Muhammad was exposed to demeaning abuse for 13 years during the early years of his mission. His response was not to return insult for insult or hurt for hurt, but to pray for his persecutors and overlook their insults. In a famous Islamic tradition, he stated: "It is not allowed to cause harm to others or to return harm for harm."

It is also an Islamic principle that one does not blame or punish another for the crimes of another. The employees at the embassies were in no way responsible for the actions of either Terry Jones or the producers of the film. Such extreme responses, in fact, can only help Islamophobic interests. Such actions and reactions are but a useless cycle of hate that benefit no one and as occurred yesterday, can be potentially dangerous and even deadly.

ING and its affiliates are committed to upholding the right to freedom of expression and unconditionally condemn any use of violence as a means to protest offensive or hateful speech. In the United States, this fundamental, inalienable right is protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The answer to speech we find deeply offensive is more speech -- speech that tells the true story of Islam -- not censorship or violence. Acts of violence carried out in the name of Islam are a greater offense against Islam than the content of any film or speech.

ING President Maha Elgenaidi urges both fellow Muslims and fellow Americans to "Work together for a more peaceful world and take this opportunity to redouble efforts towards peace and harmony through increased outreach, dialogue, and understanding."

Islamic Society of North America

ISNA President Condemns Killing of US Ambassador

(Washington, DC - Sep 12, 2012) In a statement this morning, ISNA President Imam Mohamed Magid said:

"The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) unequivocally condemns the killing of U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens, and his staff, and condemns the attack on the US Embassy in Cairo. Reports indicate that those who killed them did so as a reaction to a video depicting the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in a profane manner. Although we believe that this video is hateful and bigoted, this could never be an excuse to commit any acts of violence whatsoever. The Prophet (peace be upon him) is loved and respected by hundreds of millions of people across the world, and no one can take this from our hearts. No one should fall into the trap of those who wish to incite anger. The Prophet (peace be upon him) should be our example in everything we do, and even though he was attacked and insulted many times throughout his life, he always reacted with compassion and forgiveness, never with revenge or violence."

ISNA Statement on Profane Video of Prophet Muhammad

Special Announcement

(Washington, DC - Sept 12, 2012) The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) is deeply disturbed to learn about an online video being circulated by anti-Muslim hate groups that depicts the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in a very profane manner. The making of this video presents an extremely false narrative of American society and of American values. It does not represent the views of the American public as a whole, nor does it represent Jews, Christians, or people of any other faith. We condemn the creation of such a hateful video, and we also call for an end to support for such mechanisms of hatred and bigotry. It is inexcusable to propagate such hateful media, and to lend a helping hand to those who would do this, knowing full well that it may incite some to violence.

ISNA continues to work with communities of all faiths to respond to bigotry and hatred against Muslims. When issues of anti-Muslim bigotry arise, many people of goodwill stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us to condemn them and to work for a better society for all people. Prominent Jewish and Christian leaders across America are among the first to support our community, with the perspective that to attack one religion is, in effect, to attack all religions. We work with them day in and day out, united in a common purpose of peace and mutual respect, and we know that the messages in this video stand in stark contrast with their moral and religious values. We are confident that they will continue to stand with us in condemnation of this video and in support of Muslim communities as we face the many challenges ahead. We urge all religious communities to publicly condemn this act and help make clear that we are united against hatred, regardless of circumstance.

As horrific and offensive as the video might be, nothing justifies the sort of violent acts we have heard reported in Egypt and Libya. Already four innocent people have lost their lives in Libya, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, who was a great friend and ally of the Libyan people. As we mourn the loss of these individuals, we call on Muslims across the world not to pay any attention to the voices of extremists such as the ones that created this video. These

individuals do not represent our American government -- in fact, many of them crudely insult our President more regularly than they insult Muslims -- and they do not represent the vast majority of Americans. Our great country guarantees all of its citizens the right to freedom of speech, and unfortunately some use this simply to perpetrate bigotry and hatred. The words of these individuals are intended only to create tension and to solicit violent reactions from Muslims and people of other faiths around the world. It is critical that no one aid them in this task. As American Muslims, we can state with confidence that these individuals hold views which remain on the fringes of our society. The vast majority of Americans and American news outlets completely disregard them, and we urge all people around the world to do the same.

As ISNA President Imam Mohamed Magid stated, "As Muslims, we love our Prophet (peace be upon him) dearly. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah (may He be glorified and exalted) has praised the Prophet (peace be upon him). No video could impact his status in our hearts."

Muslim American Society

Washington, DC - September 12, 2012) - American Muslims join President Obama in condemning the horrific act of killing Christopher Stevens, U.S. Ambassador to Libya and three other Americans in a mob attack in Benghazi today.

The Muslim American Society (MAS) stands with people of conscience and sends its condolences to the families of the victims.

"We firmly believe this was a cowardly act totally contradicting the teachings of Islam," said Oussama Jammal, chairman of MAS-PACE. "If people had objections to a film about the Prophet Muhammad, they should exemplify his character of peace, mercy and forgiveness instead of resorting to murder." "Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance and respects the freedom of expression" Oussama Jammal emphasized.

At this point in time, when the world is making strides going forward in the realms of democracy and freedom, such acts take us several steps back. MAS hopes that the perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly and that all those serving the United States at home and abroad can fulfill their duties safely and freely.

National Council of Churches

The following statement about the deaths of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and other U.S. embassy staff in Libya is issued by National Council of Churches President Kathryn Lohre, and Dr. Antonios Kireopoulos, NCC associate general secretary, Interfaith Relations: Persons of faith and good will everywhere are deeply distressed by reports that U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three of his staff were killed in an attack Tuesday on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya.

The attack has been appropriately condemned by both the U.S. and Libya governments. Member communions of the National Council of Churches USA denounce this mindless violence as a travesty and mindless rejection of the historic precepts of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, which are based on God's love and a peaceful regard for all God's people.

Our hearts and prayers go out for the families and loved ones of Mr. Stevens and the other victims of the attack. We are sadly aware that this attack took place on the 11th anniversary of the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. We reiterate a statement we made we made then and ask all people to abide by its call: "We assert the vision of community, tolerance, compassion, justice, and the sacredness of human life, which lies at the heart of all of our religious traditions."

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

In response to the recent violence in Egypt and Libya, and the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other colleagues, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement:

"I am appalled and so deeply saddened this morning to learn of the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other colleagues at the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. On behalf of the Reform Jewish Movement in North America, the largest segment of North American Jewry, I offer our deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of those killed. This act of violence, and the violent protests at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, must be condemned unequivocally. While the actual killings of 4 diplomats seem to have come from a group looking for an opportunity to target the U.S. on 9/11, the loss of life in this manner is an affront to the values of humanity and tolerance that are at the core of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

I also stand here today to condemn the video that apparently spurred protests in Libya and Egypt. While we defend the right to engage in free speech, even repugnant speech, such anti-Muslim Internet postings are clearly crafted to provoke, to offend, and to evoke outrage. The denigration of religion, the mocking of religious figures and the intentional framing of religious texts and tenets in this manner must likewise be repudiated by all religious leaders.

The video and the views it espouses do not reflect the views of the overwhelming majority of Americans and people of faith. It is, purely and simply, a creation of those on the fringes of American society whether they are Christians or Jews or Muslims. Two years ago, it was Evangelical leaders who persuaded Rev. Terry Jones from burning the Koran. And it was the leaders of all the major religions in America that expressed universal condemnation of such religious hatred - in that case as now, anti-Muslim hatred. I appeal to the religious leaders and to the media in the Muslim world to denounce violence in the name of their religion to make clear to the citizens of their nation and their co-religionists the wall-to-wall condemnation of America's religious leaders of religious hate speech, and thereby help to bring an end to the violence before further tragedy occurs.

We must all oppose efforts to divide people - in the United States, in Egypt, Libya and around the world - along religious lines. Small violent groups of extremists, no matter their religious identity, cannot be allowed to define their religions or their nations. Instead, let us lift up those who appeal to the best in humanity, those who seek to build bridges over longstanding divides, and those who speak the language of peace and tolerance."

Arab American Institute

The attack on U.S. diplomatic missions in Egypt and Libya is an outrageous and horrible tragedy. The film that the demonstrators claim to be protesting might be deplorable, but it is no excuse for the wanton murder of innocent diplomats. This was an act of murder, plain and simple. We wholeheartedly support the strong and clear position expressed this morning by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and as we reflect on this tragedy, we need to remember that it was carried out by a small mob that in no way characterizes the opinions and attitudes of people in the region.

It is good that the Libyan government has condemned this act, but now they must take immediate steps to hunt down those who committed this crime and bring them to justice. If they are to be a government, they must act like one.

If the Libyans do not act quickly, there will be no doubt be severe political consequences for their country.

A final note about Ambassador Chris Stevens: Ambassador Stevens was a model diplomat who served his country with grace, dignity, and the utmost respect for both the United States and those to whom he represented it. His career in the foreign service spanned the region, including posts in Jerusalem, Damascus, and Riyadh. Before being appointed Ambassador to Libya, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission when the United States reopened its Libyan embassy in 2007 and later as Special Representative to the National Transitional Council. The United States has lost a kind, brilliant, and empathetic public servant.

American Arab anti-Discrimination Committee

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) strongly condemns the brutal attack on the U.S. Consulate in the Libyan city of Benghazi that erupted during protests last night. Four Americans were killed in the attack, among them the U.S. Envoy to Libya, Ambassador J Christopher Stevens.

This senseless act of violence occurred amidst angry protests decrying an anti-Islamic film produced in the U.S. that appeared on YouTube. Thousands of Egyptians also protested the film at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo yesterday. The film is highly insulting to the religious sentiments of Muslims.

While ADC is committed to the right enshrined in our nation's Constitution of free speech, there is no question that the purposeful provocation of any religious group is divisive and reprehensible. However, responding with violence only plays into the hands of those who seek to divide us and inevitably leads to painful loss.

ADC extends its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of those killed; and urges Muslim Americans and Muslims around the world to always react with reason, not anger, against any ignorant attack on Islam.

American Task Force on Palestine

The American Task Force on Palestine strongly condemns the heinous attack that claimed the lives of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans in Benghazi yesterday, and extends its deepest condolences to the families of Ambassador Stevens and his colleagues.

Ambassador Stevens was an exceptional diplomat who mixed impeccable professionalism with genuine passion and caring. With his tragic death, the United States has lost a patriot who tirelessly pursued America's interests, while the Arab world has lost a friend who was personally invested in a better future for the Arab world and in stronger Arab-American relations.

Association of Pakistani Physicians for Justice and Democracy

On behalf of Association of Pakistani American Physicians for Justice and Democracy, we mourn the tragic death of Ambassador Stevens who played a crucial role in the liberation of Libya from the tyrannical rule of Qaddafi. We condemn also the violence perpetrated in the name of Islam and ask for bringing those responsible to justice by Libyan Government. We also hope that Libyan Government and other Islamic countries to curb the tide of religious extremism by providing speedy justice within the frame work of a democratic rule and independent judiciary. In the absence of these pillars of a free society, extremist ideologies flourish and threaten the very fabric of the society that allows them to spread the message of hatred. Of course there is no religious basis for the actions of these criminals and we ask the full and unequivocal condemnation by the leaders of Muslim communities across the globe. This should be a wake-up call for the leaders of Arab spring that anarchists and fascist elements should not take over in the guise of religion.

Egyptian American Professionals Society

The Egyptian American Professionals Society condemns in the strongest possible terms, the attacks on the American Embassies in Egypt and Libya. The horrible assassinations of the US Ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens and three of his staff can only be considered as cold blooded murders by the extreme elements in Libya, who do not represent the Libyan people at large.

The mob attacks and the desecration of the American Flag at the American Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, is also condemned. The inability of the Egyptian Government and the Security forces to prevent such attacks is deplorable.

We are gravely concerned about the security of minorities and of foreigners in Egypt, and urge the Egyptian government to give the protection of diplomatic interests in the country its highest priority.

Libyan American Organization September 12, 2012

The Libyan American Organization (LAO) is deeply saddened and outraged by the horrific attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi on September 11, 2012 and the killing of the

Honorable Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and his fallen colleagues. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families, the U.S. government and the American people for their loss. Ambassador Stevens was admired and liked by many Libyans for his humbleness, courage and support of the Libyan people in their struggle for freedom. He walked the streets of Tripoli, ate sandwiches at popular food stands and shared meals with Libyan families. He will be missed dearly.

The few criminals who committed this cowardly act of violence and betrayal do not represent in any way the values of the LAO, the Libyan-American community or the majority of the Libyan people. The LAO urges the Libyan General National Conference and Transitional Government to take immediate and strong action to bring those criminals to justice and restore security and order in the country.

The Libyan-American community stands in solidarity with the U.S. government and the rest of the American people during this difficult time and pray that such a tragedy is never repeated again. And we will never forget the courageous stand that the American government and people took with the Libyan people during the February 17th Revolution. This tragic incident is a reminder to all of us that the situation in Libya is still highly volatile and we need to stand together to help during this transitional phase and raise awareness of the shared values between the Libyan and American peoples.

Assembly of Turkish American Associations

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) strongly condemns the terrorist attack against the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, resulting in the death of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and his three staff members.

Turkey and the United States are in close cooperation to stop terrorism and bring perpetrators to justice. The United States provides substantial funds and resources to protect Turkish diplomats from terrorism in the United States, particularly from the Armenian left-wing ASALA and Dashnak right-wing Justice Commandos Against Armenian Genocide (JCAG) terrorist groups. Since 1973, Armenian militant groups committed 239 acts involving terrorism which killed at least 70, including 42 Turkish diplomats and wounded 524 innocent people. Armenian terrorists took 105 hostages, executing 12, one of whom was an American.

Since 1984, the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) has caused the deaths of over 35,000 people, including Americans. The PKK has caused billions of dollars of property damage in Turkey and other countries. The PKK claims to represent Kurds, but includes a sliver of roughly 5000 radicals and militants. PKK terrorist attacks still continue in Turkey.

As our mother country Turkey was also subjected to years of terror by PKK, ASALA and JCAG, we truly understand and share the grief of the American people and offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends of Ambassador Stevens and staff members who lost their lives while serving their country.

USPAK Foundation

The USPAK Foundation strongly condemns the violence against the US Embassies in Libya and Egypt over September 11th, 2012. The Foundation is deeply disturbed that the violent attacks resulted in the death of U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three more American officials. Ambassador Stevens was a longtime supporter of the Libyan people and helped citizens of Benghazi in achieving freedom from the Kaddafi regime.

The attacks are a mob-reaction to a low-budget, amateur, anti-Muslim film, a trailer of which is posted on the internet. The Foundation urges all Muslims world-wide to refrain from violence, and to ignore this deliberate attempt to provoke a reaction as this will only provide additional publicity to the makers of the film. The Foundation especially urges the cessation of this extreme violence forthwith. Using the film to justify this violence runs counter to Islamic teachings as practiced by the majority of the 1.62 Billion Muslims worldwide. We ask Governments of Muslim countries to take concrete measures to avoid loss of innocent lives.

At this uneasy time we must be reminded of the saying of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) "The ink of the scholar is holier than the blood of the martyr". We urge American Muslims to participate in active discussion on this issue in their local and national media, and ask for practice of responsible journalism rather than sensationalism at this time.

USPAK Foundation respects the right of freedom of speech; however we must remain cognizant of the American values of respect and sensitivity of others. Time and again movies, cartoons, or documentaries, void of facts or any scholarly value have been made that have hurt the feelings of Muslims; they only promote and ignite hatred of each other. We ask Western Governments to discourage producers from making such movies and not to let them hide behind the veil of freedom of speech.

We also ask the Governments of Muslims countries to start "Centers of Islamic Understanding" throughout the world to educate others about the true elements of Islam.

The USPAK Foundation seeks to promote the aspirations of Pakistani Americans. The Foundation seeks to promote values of mutual respect, especially in multi-religious and multi-ethnic societies such as the United States.

CHICAGO'S MUSLIMS STRONGLY CONDEMN EMBASSY ATTACKS; MOURN DEATH OF U.S. AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER STEVENS

(Chicago, IL - 9/12/12) -- The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago today strongly condemns the attacks on the U.S. Embassies in Cairo and Benghazi, Libya, and we mourn along with the rest of our nation over the deaths of four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

"As American Muslims, we condemn these senseless attacks. There is no justification for this kind of violence in Islam and we join the rest of our country in mourning the deaths of four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens," stated CIOGC Chairman Dr. Zaher Sahloul.

"Ambassador Stevens was known as having played a significant role in the transition of Libya

towards democracy. For that he will be remembered and honored," stated Ahlam Jbara, CIOGC associate director.

The violence in Libya and Egypt is purportedly in response to a film ridiculing Islam and the Prophet Muhammad. "This violent reaction and mob activity to perceived insults to our faith are unjustified and run counter to the Prophet's example and teachings," stated Dr. Sahloul, further adding: "The individuals responsible should be held accountable for their actions. They have done a great disservice to Islam and Muslims around the world."

Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church

The Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church issued a statement after its meeting on Wednesday September 12, 2012, condemning the funding and production of the film that insulted Islam and its prophet saying its release at this specific time is part of a malicious campaign targeting defamation of religions, aiming to divide the people, most notably the Egyptian people.

The Holy Synod said that before this film, several western films have insulted Jesus Christ and Christianity in general. It is with deep sorrow felt before by such grievances that the Coptic Church is appalled at such abuse of Islam and Muslims inside and outside of Egypt. It is with great shared pain that the Holy Synod issued the following words:

First, the defamation of religion, its symbols and teachings is incompatible with Christian values, the teaching of Jesus Christ and the apostles as is demonstrated in the Bible, so those who participate in such a production, display or promotion of such a films should be held fully accountable for operating outside of Christian principles and church laws.

Second, the defamation of any religion and its symbols is a crime against all humans and should be prevented and addressed by everyone alike.

Third, those present during the meeting know that Coptic Christians living abroad and belonging to the church have expressed a deep dissatisfaction with this abusive film.

Fourth, those present during the meeting firmly believe what is mentioned in the statement is a sincere expression of the feelings of all Copts in Egypt and abroad and we strongly reject such offenses. Islam, and Muslims in general, are partners in our nation and humanity.

Fifth, it is the unity of the Egyptian people – Muslims and Christians – that will enable us to overcome this ordeal with a common expression at all levels to reject this unfortunate event.

Sixth, this statement is an official media release, communicated to President Mursi and the Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb.

RELEASED IN FULL

**Remarks of President Barack Obama
Weekly Address
The White House
September 15, 2012**

This week in Libya, we lost four of our fellow Americans. Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, Sean Smith, and Chris Stevens were all killed in an outrageous attack on our diplomatic post in Benghazi.

These four Americans represented the very best of our country.

Glen and Tyrone had each served America as Navy SEALs for many years, before continuing their service providing security for our diplomats in Libya. They died as they lived their lives – defending their fellow Americans, and advancing the values that all of us hold dear.

Sean also started his service in uniform, in the Air Force. He then spent years at the State Department, on several continents, always answering his country's call. And Ambassador Chris Stevens died a hero in two countries – here in the United States, where he inspired those of us who knew him; and in Libya, a country that he helped to save, where he ultimately laid down his life.

On Friday, I was able to tell their families how much the American people appreciated their service. Without people like them, America could not sustain the freedoms we enjoy, the security we demand, and the leadership that the entire world counts on.

As we mourn their loss, we must also send a clear and resolute message to the world: those who attack our people will find no escape from justice. We will not waver in their pursuit. And we will never allow anyone to shake the resolve of the United States of America.

This tragic attack takes place at a time of turmoil and protest in many different countries. I have made it clear that the United States has a profound respect for people of all faiths. We stand for religious freedom. And we reject the denigration of any religion – including Islam.

Yet there is never any justification for violence. There is no religion that condones the targeting of innocent men and women. There is no excuse for attacks on our Embassies and Consulates. And so long as I am Commander-in-Chief, the United States will never tolerate efforts to harm our fellow Americans.

Right now, we are doing whatever we can to protect Americans who are serving abroad. We are in contact with governments around the globe, to strengthen our cooperation, and underscore that every nation has a responsibility to help us protect our people. We have moved forward with an effort to see that justice is done for those we lost, and we will not rest until that work is done.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Most of all, we must reaffirm that we will carry on the work of our fallen heroes.

I know the images on our televisions are disturbing. But let us never forget that for every angry mob, there are millions who yearn for the freedom, and dignity, and hope that our flag represents. That is the cause of America – the ideals that took root in our founding; the opportunity that drew so many to our shores; and the awesome progress that we have promoted all across the globe.

We are Americans. We know that our spirit cannot be broken, and the foundation of our leadership cannot be shaken. That is the legacy of the four Americans we lost – men who will live on in the hearts of those they loved, and the strength of the country they served.

So with their memory to guide us, we will carry forward the work of making our country stronger, our citizens safer, and the world a better and more hopeful place. Thank you.

###

Din, Susan W

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 2:21 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

B6

Please do--I have not reached out.

RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

Best, REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 02:15 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

I'm going to email Jake on the libya points [redacted] references below unless either of you are linked in to this effort. Pls let me know.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 01:23 PM
To: Rice, Susan E (USUN); [redacted]; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: SBU/CLOSEHOLD: 0800 SVTS on Movie Protests/Violence

B5

B5

Libya:

HPSCI request: Late this week CIA Director Keith A. Kellogg gave the CIA a note spots briefing and was asked for unclassified talking points that its members could use about incident in Benghazi. (Apparently NCTC Director Matt Olson received a similar committee from a congressional committee.) The first draft apparently seemed unsuitable (based on conversations on the SVTS and afterwards) because they seemed to encourage the reader to infer incorrectly that the CIA had warned about a specific attack on our embassy. On the SVTS, Morell noted that these points were not good and he had taken a heavy editing hand to them. He noted that he would be happy to work with Jake Sullivan and Rhodes to develop appropriate talking points. McDonough, on Rhodes's behalf, deferred to Sullivan. It was agreed that Jake would work closely with the intelligence community (within a small group) to finalize points on Saturday that could be shared with HPSCI. I spoke to Jake immediately after the SVTS and noted that you were doing the Sunday morning shows and would need to be aware of the final posture that these points took. He committed to ensure that we were updated in advance of the Sunday shows. I specifically mentioned [redacted] as the one coordinating your preparations for the shows and also strongly encouraged him to loop in [redacted] during the process.

B6

B5

RELEASED IN PART B6

Ryu, Rexion Y

From: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 2:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: [REDACTED]

B6

Check out the below. You and [REDACTED] should confirm w Ben that Susan can deploy tomorrow.

----- Original Message -----

From: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 11:26 AM
To: 'Rhodes, Benjamin J.' <Benjamin.J.Rhodes@[REDACTED]>; 'michaeljm@[REDACTED]>;
<michaeljm@[REDACTED]>; Robert.Cardillo@[REDACTED]> <Robert.Cardillo@[REDACTED]>; alanrp@[REDACTED]>
<alanrp@[REDACTED]>; matt.olsen@[REDACTED]> <matt.olsen@[REDACTED]>; mark.giuliano@[REDACTED]>
<mark.giuliano@[REDACTED]>; jcingli@[REDACTED]> <jcingli@[REDACTED]>; lisa.monaco@[REDACTED]>
<lisa.monaco@[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

This looks good. Two small edits:

1. We call it "the US mission" or the "US diplomatic post" because it is not actually a Consulate.
2. There is a missing "of" in the third tic.

-----Original Message-----

From: Rhodes, Benjamin J. [mailto:Benjamin.J.Rhodes@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 11:12 AM
To: 'michaeljm@[REDACTED]>; Robert.Cardillo@[REDACTED]>; alanrp@[REDACTED]>; matt.olsen@[REDACTED]>
Sullivan, Jacob J; mark.giuliano@[REDACTED]>; jcingli@[REDACTED]>; lisa.monaco@[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

This is good by me.

-----Original Message-----

From: michaeljm@[REDACTED] [mailto:michaeljm@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 11:08 AM
To: Robert.Cardillo@[REDACTED]>; alanrp@[REDACTED]>; matt.olsen@[REDACTED]>; sullivanij@[REDACTED]>;
mark.giuliano@[REDACTED]>; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; jcingli@[REDACTED]>; lisa.monaco@[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Per the discussion at Deputies, here are the revised TPs for HPSCI. Let me know what you think.

--The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. There are indications that extremists participated in the violent demonstrations.

--This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and as currently available information continues to be evaluated.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

--The investigation is on-going, and the US Government is working with Libyan authorities to bring to justice those responsible for the deaths US citizens.

RELEASED IN PART B6
Pelofsky, Eric J

From: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 2:44 PM
Subject: Re: Libya - Unclass IC pts

B6

Coming your way.

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 02:33 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Libya - Unclass IC pts

Jake - understand from [REDACTED] that you're working a set of unclass IC pts on libya for the Hill. If these are going to be finalized by Sunday am (or COB today), can we get a copy for Susan to ensure we're on the same msg? Happy to have [REDACTED] work with whomever on the State team is handling this, unless it's you - in which case happy to get them directly. Whatever is easiest.

B6

B6

Many thx.

[REDACTED]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer