

Opening Statement
Of the
Honorable Porter J. Goss
Before the
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

14 September 2004

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman,
Senators, ladies and gentlemen.

I am honored to be appearing before this
Committee as the President's nominee to be the next
Director of Central Intelligence.

I am humbled by the confidence the President has
expressed in me and my ability to carry out the
obligations of the office to which I have been
nominated.

I wish to thank Senator Graham and Senator Nelson,
my home state senators, for their gracious
introductions. I appreciate their support and very kind
words.

I look forward to today's hearing and the
opportunity it presents to discuss with you the
important issues facing our nation and the Intelligence

Community.

As much as I look forward to this opportunity, I have to say that I never expected to be in this seat before you. Of course, I never planned to be a Congressman, or a Lee County Commissioner, or Mayor of Sanibel, for that matter either.

As for my representation of my constituents from the 14th District of Florida, I have given my best to them for the past 15 plus years. At times, perhaps, I engaged in debate with a little too much vigor or enthusiasm. I tried, however, to the best of my ability, to engage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle fairly and with the utmost respect for their position and perspective.

Rest assured, however, that I understand completely the difference in obligations the position of DCI carries with it and that which the role of a

Congressman carries. These are two completely distinct jobs in our form of government. I understand those distinctions and if confirmed commit myself to a non-partisan approach to the job of DCI.

As noted, I have been a Congressman from Florida. This is my 8th term in Congress. During the last 7 and a half years, I served as Chairman of the sister committee in the House of Representatives to this Committee, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I served with a several very distinguished Ranking Democrats: Norm Dicks of Washington, the late Julian Dixon of California, Nancy Pelosi-who rose to the office of House Minority Leader, and most recently with Jane Harman of California; each of them able, committed, and valuable Members of Congress.

I am proud of my record of service to the nation in

that capacity and the record of cooperation, objectivity, and the nonpartisan approach taken together with them on the serious issues facing the nation and the IC.

I have served as a Mayor and County Commissioner.

I worked in the Directorate of Operations at the CIA in the 1960s. While in the Army, I served as a photo interpreter.

Each of these opportunities has challenged me and enabled me to serve my country in unique ways. If confirmed, I will be given another unique opportunity to serve my country.

The challenges facing the Intelligence Community today are varied, and extremely complex. Most important among them is countering the terrorist threat to our nation. In addition, the Intelligence

Community cannot lose sight of its other responsibilities. It must work tirelessly and continuously to provide our diplomats and our policy makers, both in the executive branch and in Congress, with information that informs the development of public policies across a broad range of topics.

With regard to terrorism, the Intelligence Community's task is most urgent. It must strive to detect, deter, and disrupt future terror attacks on the US.

As Americans we are confronted by a brutal enemy who prefers to murder innocents, who continues to strike at our military men and women, who bombs our embassies, and who is committed to the destruction of our economy and our way of life.

In this battle good intelligence is crucial. We must

deliver a solid product for our decision makers.

When I look back at my time as a clandestine services case officer with the CIA during the Cold War, I can say that during that time the mission of the Intelligence Community was clear: to obtain the plans and intentions of our enemies, adversaries, and their associates before they could attack the United States. We knew our enemy.

The mission for the Intelligence Community has not changed. We must determine our enemies plans and intentions before they attack the United States.

Our human intelligence capability must improve if we are to continue to exercise our responsibilities in this challenging time.

Our analytical depth and scope of coverage must increase if we are to provide context and texture to the

information that is collected.

Our national technical means must be protected and reinvigorated. Investment in these areas will be required.

Intelligence needs to be shared with those who need to know. This includes our state and local law enforcement authorities for Homeland Security purposes and our federal law enforcement officials.

Information sharing must improve if we are to improve our capabilities against our most imminent threats.

We must also improve our intelligence capabilities in the proliferation arena. We need to develop sufficient language skills and depth to be able to accomplish all of our mission objectives in a timely fashion.

I agree whole heartedly with the 9/11 Commissioners that the Intelligence Community management must foster and nurture imagination throughout the Intelligence Community, not stifle it.

There are no easy fixes to these complex challenges. If confirmed, I look forward to working together with this Committee to find ways to improve our capabilities to carry out our mission in the defense of liberty and freedom.

The job to which I have been nominated - DCI - is a capabilities job, not a policy job. The DCI must provide objective and precise intelligence. In order to do this, he must have the capabilities and resources available to gather that intelligence. Objective and precise intelligence is only possible if the Intelligence Community's leadership is itself objective,

independent, and clear in its commitment to these ideals.

I am committed to these principles. If confirmed, I pledge to be forthright, and objective in the presentation of the intelligence information to you and to the policy makers in the executive branch.

Finally, I want to say a few words about the dedicated men and women of the Intelligence Community. During my years as Chairman of the HPSCI, I have come to know the successes that they have achieved and the extraordinary efforts they have performed in the service of this nation. They serve quietly, with integrity, and with the utmost dedication to the nation, its security, and its people. The people of this great nation are indebted to their sacrifice and commitment.

Most importantly, my role as husband and father defines me. I have a wife who has sacrificed much to allow me to serve. Mariel and I were looking forward to a quiet retirement. But, we both understand the call of public service and duty to country. In this time of war, when duty calls, we find ways to serve. This is my way. I am eternally grateful to her for her steadfast support and continued strength.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, Members of the Committee, again, thank you again for this opportunity.

I am now prepared to take your questions.