

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 18, 2004

The Honorable Colin L. Powell  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our deep concern with the latest edition of the Department of State's *Patterns of Global Terrorism 2003* report.

Defeating global terrorism is a goal we all share. Yet, over the course of the last several months, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld has repeatedly indicated that the Administration lacks the "metrics" to determine whether the United States is winning the war on international terrorism. Given that this effort is likely to take considerable time and resources, we agree with Secretary Rumsfeld that success requires that the American people be provided a clearer accounting from their leaders of how we are fighting and faring in the war on terrorism.

This desire for clearer accounting of our efforts against terrorism was part of the rationale that led Congress in 1987 to pass legislation mandating an annual *Patterns of Global Terrorism* report. Congress believed this report could help ensure that our government's decisions to defeat terrorism are informed by the latest and most accurate data.

Because defeating terrorism will require accurate data, we were very disturbed to learn that the State Department's *Patterns of Global Terrorism* annual report for 2003 presented an inaccurate and incomplete picture. As you know, the *Patterns of Global Terrorism 2003* report indicated a decline in global terrorism last year when, in fact, the number of terrorist incidents increased -- to the highest level in more than 20 years. Especially troubling is the fact that senior Administration officials used this erroneous data in a series of press conferences and press releases to claim that the United States is winning the war on international terrorism.

We are pleased that you committed to address this problem and urge you to aggressively follow through on these pledges. We submit a series of additional recommended steps for you to consider while you are editing the earlier report:

- 1) immediately remove from the State Department's website the inaccurate and incomplete version of the report as well as any public testimony, speeches or transcripts based on that report;

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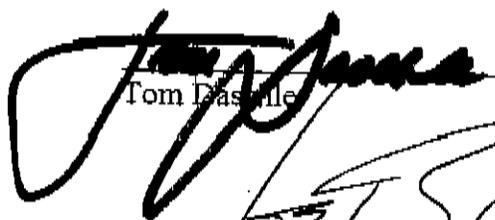
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- 2) upon completion of the revised report, forward the new report to any Congressional Committee that heard testimony based on the faulty report;
- 3) in order to clear up any misimpression that the earlier report may have left with the American public or with Congress, particularly as the Congress begins deliberations on FY 2005 appropriations measures, hold a public press conference to describe the corrections made to the original report and the implications of the new conclusions for our government's success in the war on terror;
- 4) initiate an investigation by the State Department's Inspector General into how the inaccurate statements found their way into the latest version of this report and whether the process for assembling this report and the participants involved differed significantly from previous reports.

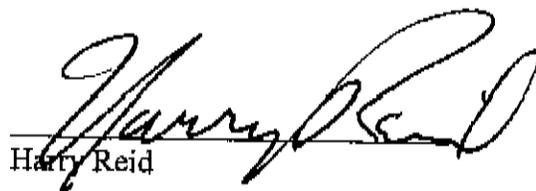
Prevailing in the war on terrorism will require the long-term cooperation of the American people and the world. Our government's credibility is essential to these efforts. By releasing an inaccurate report, the Administration has undermined our nation's credibility at a critical moment in the war on terrorism. We believe the best thing you can do to restore some of this lost credibility is to pursue the measures described above.

Thank you for your consideration.

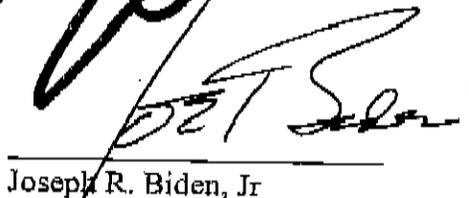
Sincerely,



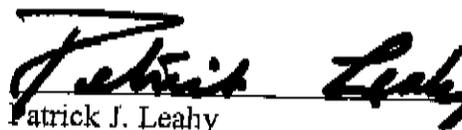
Tom Daschle



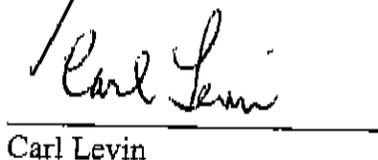
Harry Reid



Joseph R. Biden, Jr



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Carl Levin



John D. Rockefeller IV