



INTELLIGENCE

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FEB 22 2006

Iraq

The Honorable Rick Santorum
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Santorum:

On behalf of the Secretary of Defense, I am responding to your January 20, 2006 letter which urges documents captured in Iraq (that highlight the connections between Saddam Hussein's regime and Islamic terrorists) be released as soon as possible. I want to assure you that we, along with the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), Department of State and the National Security Council are doing everything we can to get these documents released to the general public as quickly as possible.

Much work has already been done to manage the huge volume of documents, but more has yet to be done during this year. After having received the Department of State's guidance on ownership and disposition of the documents, the DNI is close to deciding a formal process for release. We here at DoD will continue to work closely with the DNI to get these type of documents declassified and available for public use as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your concerns. I look forward to continuing our dialogue on this issue. Please feel free to contact me or my staff if there are any additional questions.

William G. Boykin

LTG, USA

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Intelligence & Warfighting Support)

(20 Jan 06)



R 01636-06

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United States Senate

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January 20, 2006

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I write today as a follow-up to discussions I have had recently both with you and President George W. Bush concerning the merits of releasing Iraqi military documents and photographs recovered in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein. In my conversations with you and the President, I urged that the efforts to examine these documents and photographs be accelerated. With U.S. and Coalition forces actively engaged in Iraq, the analysis and release of these documents should be made a top priority within the Department of Defense.

Recently, I gave a speech at the Valley Forge Military Academy in Pennsylvania concerning ongoing military operations in Iraq and detailed why we must prevail. In my speech, I noted that U.S. and Coalition forces are fighting the forces of Islamic fascism and those who seek to overthrow the values and beliefs that civilized nations cherish. In short, this is a battle we cannot afford to lose.

As you know, *The Weekly Standard* published several articles detailing a number of these documents and the information contained within them which "connect the dots" between Saddam Hussein and the training of Islamic terrorists. Among the points highlighted in a recent *The Weekly Standard* article:

The photographs and documents on Iraqi training camps come from a collection of some 2 million 'exploitable items' captured in postwar Iraq and Afghanistan. They include handwritten notes, typed documents, audiotapes, videotapes, compact discs, floppy discs, and computer hard drives... Nearly three years after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, only 50,000 of these 2 million 'exploitable items' have been thoroughly examined.

As we discussed, many of the translated and analyzed documents were entered into a government database known as "HARMONY." It is now four years since these documents were captured. I understand that previous requests to release information from the HARMONY database have been rejected or delayed. It is my hope that over the course of the last four years any actionable intelligence contained within these documents has already been exploited. Devoting additional personnel to translate and investigate these captured Iraqi documents and photographs have been a continuing effort for the past four years.

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JAN 20 2006 11:54 AM

It is imperative that documents captured in Iraq which highlight the connections between Saddam Hussein's brutal regime and Islamic terrorists be released as soon as possible. These documents are increasingly necessary to help the American people understand both the reasons for our involvement in Iraq and the challenge of defending freedom and democracy.

However, in the interest of national security, I support any decision by the Department of Defense to redact or delete information in these captured documents that would jeopardize our troops or intelligence collection methods if made public.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Santorum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Rick Santorum
United States Senate

RJS/gb