

## STATEMENT

Closing Statement of  
U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal  
Services

### **ACIA National Intelligence Estimate of Foreign Missile Development and the Ballistic Missile Threat through 2015@**

March 11, 2002

I want to thank our witness, Mr. Walpole, for testifying this afternoon. It has been a stimulating and useful discussion.

I must say that I am concerned over the greater sophistication in both missiles and weapons by the countries that continue to develop them. Yes, fewer countries are developing missiles, but the ones that do so are devoting considerable effort to expanding their range and capability, and this is a compelling reason for continuing a missile defense program. It is also a compelling reason to continue using diplomacy to enhance our international arms control agreements.

At the same time we have to keep focused on present and future threats. We need to rank these dangers, prioritizing our precious time, energy, and resources in a comprehensive national strategy.

Today, as has been noted, is the six month anniversary of the terrorist attacks on American soil. Unfortunately, this marks a tragic and all too real example of how the greatest immediate threat we face is from terrorists using means other than missiles or weapons of mass destruction to attack America. Mr. Walpole's testimony supports this disturbing conclusion.

As we confront the implications of the range of possible threats against the United States, we must balance the resources needed to confront immediate enemies against those needed against future enemies. This hearing has contributed to the public debate that is needed in this country as we formulate our national security policy. I appreciate the willingness of Mr Walpole and his colleagues from the Central Intelligence Agency to discuss this topic publicly with us.

Mr. Walpole, we have no further questions at this time; however, members of this Subcommittee may submit questions in writing for any of the witnesses. We would appreciate a timely response to any questions. The Record will remain open for these questions and for further statements from my colleagues.

Again, thank you very much for your responses today.

This hearing is adjourned.

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