

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20511

RELEASE IN
PART
B7(E),B7(A)

The Honorable Bob Corker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

Thank you for your September 29 letter regarding the Intelligence Community's evolving assessment of the circumstances leading up to, during, and after the Benghazi terrorist attack. All of us in the Intelligence Community share your concern about having a full and accurate understanding of the attack and the identity of the attackers. Let me assure you that we are working relentlessly both in the United States and overseas to collect and analyze all of the disparate threads of information to provide policymakers in the Executive and Legislative Branches with that full understanding. We continue to receive new intelligence information weeks after the attack that causes us to review our assessments and judgments. In this attack, as in other terrorist attacks, Intelligence Community understanding of and ability to connect all of the dots takes time and evolves as we collect and analyze new intelligence. We are providing the congressional intelligence oversight committees with near-daily written intelligence updates and regular briefings. During the Congressional recess, these updates are being provided to congressional intelligence committee staff. We would be happy to brief you at your earliest convenience on our most up-to-date analysis.

You also asked about the FBI's investigation in Libya and the circumstances of their investigation in Benghazi itself. The FBI [redacted]

[redacted] continues to interview witnesses and review evidence. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] It is important to note that the dynamics in parts of the Middle East/North Africa are such that the situation on the ground changes quickly and the threats to US persons and interests can and does rapidly deteriorate.

As an intelligence professional for over 40 years, I have been a witness to or active participant in the assessment of nearly every terrorist attack affecting our country and our interests. The initial intelligence reports we receive are almost always inaccurate or incomplete and in every case a full understanding comes only after extensive review, investigation and analysis. We look forward to providing you and other Members with an updated briefing.

Sincerely,

James R. Clapper

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