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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY  
POLICY

*SecDef*

*Larry Di Rita*

FOR: ~~Mr. Larry Di Rita~~  
THRU: David Trachtenberg *DT*  
FROM: Keith Payne *KP*  
SUBJECT: Secretary's Response to Rep. Tauscher before the HASC, 5 Feb.

*2/19*

- At Tab A is brief background paper regarding the Secretary's response to a question regarding an alleged \$1.26 billion dollar program to develop new smaller nuclear weapons.
- My staff reviewed a broadcast of the hearing and concluded that the Secretary's response to Rep. Tauscher's question on small nuclear weapons was correct.
- At Tab B is the article, which served as a basis for Rep. Tauscher's question. The article claims that the Defense Department declined to comment on the article before the presses rolled on February 3.
- This claim was based on an E-mail sent to our Public Affairs office late Friday evening (Jan 31) after the desk officer had gone home for the weekend.

*A-471.61*

Attachments:  
A. Background Paper  
B. LA Times article

[Redacted]  
6 February 2003

*2/18*  
*SecDef -*  
*We will get back to Ellen Tauscher and the Committee, but here is more info on your exchange with Cong. Tauscher about small Nukes.*

*9 Apr 03*

SP4 ASSISTANT DI RITA	
SR/MA CRADDOCK	<i>2/19</i>
MA BUCCI	<i>2/19</i>
EXECSEC WHITMORE	<i>2/19</i>

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*Di Rita*  
*Larry Di Rita*  
*2/19*

# TAB

# A



Background Paper on  
The Secretary's Response to  
Rep. Tauscher's Question on New Small Nuclear Weapons  
House Armed Services Committee, 5 February

**Background:** *(No hearing transcript available yet; only TV broadcast.)*

- During the FY 04 budget hearing before the House Armed Services Committee, the Secretary was asked by Rep. Tauscher about what she alleged is a \$1.26-billion DoD program to build the next generation of small nuclear weapons.
- In reply, the Secretary said that he was not familiar with the article or the program that Rep. Tauscher described. She added that it was a DTRA program outlined in a recent *LA Times* article that was based on information posted on DTRA's web site.
- The Secretary said that he was 99% certain that there is no program to build small nuclear warheads, but that some research program might be mentioned in the classified portion of the Nuclear Posture Review.
- He added that he was not aware of any new nuclear weapon development, but he would get back to the Committee on the question. *(AT&L should respond.)*
- *The Secretary is correct. There is no new nuclear weapon development ongoing today. He did not imply a foreclosure of any future development.*
- The Secretary went on to say that hard deeply buried targets were a very serious problem that needed attention.

**Analysis:**

- The basis for Rep. Tauscher's question was triggered by the Times article and DTRA's web site containing a contract solicitation for, *Weapons of Mass Destruction – Defeat Technology*.
- The solicitation was aimed at an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations (ACTDs) to improve modeling capability for ground shock against deep underground targets using conventional and nuclear weapons.
- Only a small portion of the proposed work is aimed at a nuclear ACTD. All the work is being carried out in response to the NPR, programmed under global strike.
- The maximum net amount to the overall **10-year** multi-source WMD defeat contract was \$1.26 billion.

Modeling,  
not  
weapons

