



House Select Committee on Homeland Security **Democrats**

JIM TURNER, Ranking Member

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TURNER RAISES GRAVE CONCERNS OVER ADMINISTRATION PORT SECURITY PROGRAM'S ABILITY TO STOP NUCLEAR SMUGGLING

Following the completion of a Department of Homeland Security Inspector General investigation requested by Congressman Jim Turner (Ranking Member, House Select Committee on Homeland Security) and Congressman John Dingell (Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee), into the circumstances surrounding an ABC News report that in September, 2003, it successfully shipped depleted uranium into the United States in a cargo container from Jakarta, Indonesia, Congressman Turner stated in a letter today to Secretary Tom Ridge:

“The [Inspector General’s] report raises a number of troubling issues concerning the Administration’s ability to detect and prevent nuclear material from entering the United States. As you know, the Department screens only about five percent of all cargo containers for nuclear and radiological materials. The Inspector General’s report casts doubt on the effectiveness of the inspections the Department conducts on even this small fraction of containers coming into the United States.”

“More worrisome, the Inspector General reports that he is not satisfied with the Department’s implementation of the key recommendations for correcting the identified deficiencies in inspections. In light of the fact that this report deals with the grave threat of a nuclear attack, and the Department has cited the interest of al-Qaeda in such an attack, the report requires immediate action by the Department.”

A full version of the letter is attached. An unclassified version of the Inspector General’s report will be released Thursday, October 14, 2004.

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