



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735

Lantos: Intelligence Panel as Proposed is “Unacceptable”

Inquiry Must Be Truly Independent to Overcome Potential Foreign Policy Credibility Gap

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Francisco, San Mateo) has called for a truly independent investigation into the intelligence on weapons of mass destruction that was collected before the Iraq war, and whether it was deliberately mischaracterized by Administration officials.

“The U.S. public and much of the world now question the accuracy and integrity of U.S. intelligence information,” Lantos wrote in today’s edition of *The San Francisco Chronicle*. “Many suspect that the administration used intelligence for ideological ends, to advocate and to intimidate rather than to understand and to inform. If this perception persists and deepens without remedy, the resulting ‘credibility gap’ between what the United States says and what is believed will seriously undermine our national security.”

Lantos continued, “Only an independent and objective investigation, followed by decisive corrective action, can span this widening credibility gap. There must be a no-holds-barred, nonpartisan inquiry into the character, quality and presentation of pre-war intelligence available to policy-makers. It must be completely unconnected to the Bush administration or Congress. The administration’s newfound willingness to create an investigating commission, whose members would be selected by the president and whose report could be postponed for political ends, is unacceptable.”

Lantos laid out his views on the intelligence dilemma in an opinion editorial (op-ed) published in today’s edition of *The San Francisco Chronicle*. The article can be viewed in full on-line at <http://www.sfgate.com/> using the keyword “Lantos.”

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