



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subcommittee Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Persistent Challenges: Examining the Operations of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis

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Today's hearing title is accurate. Historically, there *have* been "persistent challenges" at I&A. The MAGA Trump administration tried to tear apart I&A for political gain, to the detriment of our national security and Americans' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

Under Secretary Wainstein has devoted his time in office to cleaning up the mess left by the Trump administration and so-called "Acting Secretary" Chad Wolf. So, thank you, Under Secretary Wainstein, for your dedication to I&A and for joining us today.

Today's hearing is an opportunity for Members to gain insight into how Under Secretary Wainstein and the Biden administration have taken the first steps toward rebuilding I&A's reputation and effectiveness. Shortly after Under Secretary Wainstein took office, he initiated a 360-Degree Review of the entire Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

Throughout the 360 Review process, Under Secretary Wainstein has kept Congress up to date on his findings. He has been a partner as we help rebuild and realign I&A to safeguard the Office from politicization and prevent any future harm to our homeland security apparatus.

Here are just some of the results from Under Secretary Wainstein's 360 Review:

- I&A's collection activities will be separated from its analysis teams, and a new Deputy Under Secretary will oversee all intelligence collection.
- I&A's Open Source Intelligence collectors will be embedded within I&A's four analytic centers to work alongside and in closer collaboration with analysts and privacy experts.
- And I&A will implement a new process to measure and establish benchmarks for intelligence output and feedback from customers, then use "surge" efforts to cover near-term priorities.

These reforms—and the others that will emerge from the 360 Review—go a long way toward rebuilding I&A's operations, effectiveness, and morale following the years I&A was trashed by Trump. These reforms—and this hearing—have been a long time coming.

Republicans have been in charge of the House for eighteen months, but unfortunately this is the first time this Subcommittee has held a hearing focused on the Office of Intelligence and Analysis. I&A's mission is critical, particularly at a time when our country is facing lethal threats from white supremacists, racially motivated violent extremists, malign foreign governments like China and Russia, and growing threats from ISIS. Congress should be a partner to I&A and work to help the Under Secretary rebuild what the Trump administration broke.

I look forward to hearing from Under Secretary Wainstein on how to further improve I&A based on the 360-Degree Review. I stand ready to continue working with Under Secretary Wainstein and Committee Members on this critical effort.

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