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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20511

The Honorable Richard Burr
Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
Vice Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Burr and Vice Chairman Warner:

This correspondence responds to Questions for the Record entered by Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) for VADM Joseph Maguire for his July 25, 2018 open confirmation hearing for the position of Director of the National Counterterrorism Center. The requested information is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (703) 275-2474.

Sincerely,

Benjamin T. Fallon

Date

Enclosure:

Responses to Questions for the Record from the July 25, 2018 Confirmation Hearing before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

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Hearing Date: 25 July 2018
Committee: SSCI
Member: Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
Witness: VADM Joseph Maguire
Info Current as of: 27 July 2018

It has been publicly reported that on Saturday, June 30, 2018, a Belgian security unit detained a married couple of Iranian origin at a traffic stop in a residential neighborhood of Brussels. They were found to be carrying 500 grams of the military-grade explosive TATP along with a detonation device, which the couple allegedly obtained in Luxembourg from a Vienna-based Iranian diplomat.

Further, it was reported that on Sunday, July 1, 2018, German Security forces detained the Iranian diplomat and three companions. The Iranian diplomat was reportedly racing back to Vienna where he had diplomatic immunity.

While these operations were unfolding, French officials reportedly detained several Iranian-origin nationals linked to the Brussels suspects.

Question 1: What does this report tell you about the brazenness of Iranian intelligence services to commit attacks in Europe that would kill hundreds if not thousands of peaceful European citizens?

Answer: Stepping back and looking at this thwarted attack in the referenced news report, it appears that Iran lacks a clear understanding of U.S. and European decision calculus regarding terrorist activity. It also suggests that Tehran views Iranian dissident groups as an enduring threat to its national security, such that it is willing to conduct lethal operations against these groups in Europe despite the possibility of killing or injuring European and U.S. citizens, potentially including high-ranking U.S. officials.

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Question 2: Is there any doubt in your mind that Iran is still the number one state sponsor of terrorism in the world today?

Answer: I have no doubt that Iran is the number one state sponsor of terrorism today, and I would refer back to my statement for the record that, in addition to being the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism, Iran is by far the most prolific financier of terrorist organizations in the world.

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Question 3: On Sunday evening, at the Reagan Library, Secretary Pompeo described how the Iranian security services are getting rich at the expense of the general population and that sanctions targeting the Iranian economy will not go away while attacks like these continue. Do you agree with Secretary Pompeo?

Answer: Should I be confirmed as director of NCTC, I would reach back to the experts in my organization and the broader intelligence community to understand how the current social and economic environment in Iran might impact the terrorist threat posed by Iranian-aligned groups worldwide.

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Question 4: What kind of response is required by the Germans, Austria, French, Belgians, and others so that Iran realizes that this kind of state sanctioned terrorist behavior will not be tolerated?

Answer: I stated during my testimony how important partnerships are and as NCTC Director, if confirmed, I would ensure that we continue to work closely with U.S. partners and allies, such as the Germans, Austrians, French, and Belgians, to ensure that Iranian terrorist operations will not endanger innocent civilians across the globe. As the disrupted plot in Paris demonstrates, when our allies understand the depth and breadth of Iranian malign activities, our relationships grow even stronger and we can successfully disrupt these terrorist operations. I hope a lawful conviction will send a strong message to the Iranian regime that these actions will not be tolerated. The disruption of the plot in Europe appears to have required security officials across several countries to work together to share information, a positive sign for the future. Overall, I will champion a U.S. position that will support and encourage our European partners to join us in confronting Iranian malign activities around the world.

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Question 1: NCTC's most important resource is its people. The organization is unique in the community, however, by its reliance on detailees. What is your plan to attract and retain talented staff for multiple years from other agencies?

Answer: I agree that the people and the unique skills, knowledge, and backgrounds that each person brings are critical to NCTC mission success and are its most important asset. NCTC relies heavily on detailees from other departments and agencies to achieve this success. The experiences these officers bring to the Center are vital to every aspect of NCTC's mission and continuing to attract and retain detailees will be one of my highest priorities. I will need to build strong relationships with my interagency partners to ensure that they understand the value of having their employees do rotations in NCTC. In order to ensure that we get that buy-in from other agencies, I believe a first step is to conduct a thorough review of NCTC's mission-critical staffing requirements. This review is vital to make informed decisions on how to prioritize our needs ahead of any engagement with our partner departments and agencies on this issue. In addition, NCTC must continue to foster a workplace that is inclusive, dynamic, and viewed as career-enhancing by our partner agency workforces.

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Question 2: In Wednesday's hearing you discussed the perennial "lanes in the road" challenge regarding how the IC covers CT issues. CIA's Counterterrorism Mission Center and NCTC's Directorate of Intelligence remain the two most obvious areas of overlap, especially on strategic terrorism analysis. What is your position on how these two organizations should cover CT and how would you implement this as the next National Intelligence Manager for Counterterrorism?

Answer: In an environment of competing national security priorities and resource constraints, I understand how minimizing any redundancy—analytic or otherwise—is critical. I believe NCTC is well-positioned to identify redundancy in terrorism analysis across the IC and to work with the ODNI and the broader IC to reduce such instances. I understand that NCTC is already taking steps to systematically and objectively look into this issue and identify potential unnecessary redundancies across the U.S. counterterrorism community. For example, I know NCTC is examining the extent of analytic redundancy in CT-focused finished products, and should I be confirmed, I look forward to learning more about the detailed findings. I know from discussions with NCTC leadership the Center takes efforts to monitor planned and published CT articles in other product lines to avoid unwanted redundancy and minimize the impact for the Center's customers. If confirmed, I am committed to continuing this review process started by NCTC and to taking a hard look at the "lanes in the road" issue with NCTC's IC partners to reduce unnecessary redundancy.