

WMD PROLIFERATION

Bush Sets Priorities; Diplomatic Heavy Lifting, Acceleration Required

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 2004— CSIS analysts made the following statements today following President Bush's speech on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction:

Michèle Flournoy, senior adviser, CSIS International Security Program (202-775-3136; mflournoy@csis.org): “If President Bush really wants the international community to ‘get more serious’ about preventing the proliferation of WMD to terrorists, he should set more of an example by significantly accelerating and expanding the scope of U.S. efforts to secure or eliminate weapons-usable nuclear, biological, and chemical materials that are vulnerable to theft or diversion. The administration is currently approaching this problem as if we have years to solve it when in reality we are in a race to prevent terrorists from getting their hands on these materials -- and they may be winning.”

Robert Einhorn, senior adviser, CSIS International Security Program (202-775-3257; reinhorn@csis.org): “Given the unwelcome proliferation surprises we've encountered recently, especially the alarming progress Iran has made toward a nuclear bomb and the extensive black market network that was assisting Libya's nuclear program, the president's initiative to shore up the international nonproliferation regime is a welcome step. Almost all the measures he proposes will depend on winning the support of other countries. That will require the administration not only to engage in sustained diplomatic heavy lifting, but also to show a readiness to adjust its own positions to meet the requirements of others -- something it has often been reluctant to do in the counter-proliferation area.”

Anthony Cordesman, CSIS Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy (202-775-3270; acordesman@aol.com): “The president has set many of the right priorities. He has not, however, laid out a framework for a broader approach to arms control, outlined the improvements he feels should be made in U.S. intelligence efforts, or given other critical aspects of proliferation, like advances in biotechnology and the threat posed by biological weapons, the proper priority. It is a good first step, but it is going to require a great deal of follow up to be more than an exercise in rhetoric.”

[The “Global Partnership Update (Nov. 2003),” (www.sgpproject.org - under *Project Publications*) compiled by the CSIS *Strengthening the Global Partnership* (SGP) project, is the most comprehensive analysis of the financial commitments made by G8 and other European nations to secure nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials, primarily in the former Soviet Union. The SGP project is led by CSIS and primarily funded by the Nuclear Threat Initiative.]

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