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Hoekstra Statement on Presidential Press Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement after President George W. Bush's press conference:

“President Bush is correct when he says the war against radical Islam is the challenge of this generation. He is also right when he declares that it is a global struggle being fought on many fronts and in many countries.

“In stark contrast, some in Congress, including the Minority Leader, have said the war on terror is only being fought in Afghanistan. Given the information available to Members of Congress, I am surprised by this dangerous lack of understanding about the global challenge radical Islam poses to the United States.

“It is a matter of fact that radical Islamists are watching everything America and our allies do in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as the Philippines, Indonesia, Yemen, the United Kingdom and too many other places around the world to name. They are constantly searching for signs of weakness or a lack of resolve.

“Because this is a global struggle, we have to move beyond the slogans of ‘cut and run’ or ‘stay the course.’ We must be willing to adapt and remain on the offensive worldwide against radical Islamists. We also have to push our allies, including the Iraqi government and governments around the world, to do more to combat radical Islam.

“This is truly the struggle of our time, and it is truly a fight for our way of life. It will not be easy, nor will it be quick, but it must be fought, and as Americans have throughout history, we must rise to the challenge.

“The radical Islamists awoke the sleeping American giant on 9/11, the question now is whether the giant will go back to sleep.”

<http://intelligence.house.gov>