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<http://www.house.gov/reyes>

Statement on DNI Negroponte's resignation

Reyes concerned with leadership vacancies in U.S. intelligence community

Washington, D.C. – *Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-TX, the Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, released the following statement on the resignation of Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte:*

“I thank Director Negroponte for his service as the nation’s first Director of National Intelligence, and wish him the best in his next position as Deputy Secretary of State.

“The progress he has made as DNI has put our intelligence community in better stead, but intelligence challenges in Iraq and throughout the world show that much work remains to be done. The House Intelligence Committee has often expressed its concern about a growing bureaucracy in managing the Intelligence Community, and while Director Negroponte has made some headway, the pace of reform has been slow.

“I am concerned about the void created by Director Negroponte's departure, and am encouraged by press accounts that President Bush will nominate Vice Admiral Mike McConnell (RET) to fill the post. However, vacancies in the offices of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence leave much of the Intelligence Community's most senior leadership positions empty. This is a critical time in our nation's history, and we need individuals in these positions who are qualified and committed to implementing the necessary changes called for by the 9/11 Commission and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act.

“The next Director of National Intelligence will enter a changing environment in the Congress and the Department of Defense. This individual will have to step in aggressively, and forcefully bring together the 16 Intelligence agencies.”