

Testimony of the Hon. Peter King
Before the House Permanent Subcommittee on Intelligence
April 17, 2024

At the outset let me thank Chairman Turner and Ranking Member Himes for once again extending me the privilege of testifying before this Committee. Having served on this Committee with each of you and with several other members of the Committee, it's great to be back.

I also must thank your staff members for coordinating this morning's hearing: particularly Michael Calcagni, Mandy Bowers who worked for me when I was Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, and John Tucci, an Army Veteran, who before he hit the big time in Washington, was a neighbor who attended grade school and high school with my son and daughter and worked on my district office staff.

In many ways my testimony today will echo what I said when I was last here less than a year ago.

- The Committee has a daunting mandate with issues and potential crises on many fronts.
- The pressure points I cited then included China, Russia, cyber security and Ukraine.
- I also emphasized the continued threat of Islamist terrorism. Having served on this Committee, been Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee and lived through the horrors and aftermath of 9/11 as a New Yorker, I continue to be laser focused on preventing another 9/11. While the defenses and

countermeasures put in place after 9/11 have been largely successful, the terrorist threat is not ancient history or something to be relegated to the rear-view mirror.

A summary of my present testimony would be that this Committee and America continue to be confronted by all the threats I discussed last year and more.

- The war caused by the horrific terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel on October 7th is an existential threat to Israel, a critical challenge to the United States and to our strategic interests in the Middle East and a serious terror threat to our Homeland. Hamas is just the tip of Iran's spear consisting of numerous terrorist groups including Hezbollah which is the best trained terrorist group in the world and has had many members prepositioned in New York for years.
- The terror threat is amplified by the many terrorists able to come across our borders and by the disgraceful pro-Hamas, anti-Israel, anti-American movement in our country.
- Israeli Intelligence and Counterterrorism plans and procedures were considered to be among the world's most professional and sophisticated, yet we saw what happened on October 7th.
- Similarly there was the large scale Islamist attack in the Moscow theatre carried out successfully despite warnings from American Intelligence.
- There was almost an 8 1/2 year gap between the first World Trade Center and the attacks of 9/11.
- Today Iran is emboldened. ISIS is reconstituted. Russia is on offense in Ukraine. China is an increased threat to Taiwan and the Pacific region.

- It is more essential than ever that this Committee continue to act in a bipartisan fashion particularly on efforts to renew and extend FISA 702 as expeditiously as possible.

Again my thanks and gratitude for all you are doing to keep our nation safe at home and around the world.