



CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON TERRORISM AND UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE

Rep. Robert Pittenger, Chairman
2015 Annual Review



In 2013, then Majority Leader Cantor asked me to succeed him as Chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare. Shortly after assuming leadership, we were confronted with the Snowden revelations of intercepting critical intelligence data and raising alarms about privacy and civil liberties. Following many classified briefings, it was clear that Mr. Snowden had access to nearly 2 million documents of strategic plans for our military operations. There was also a wave of misinformation disseminated worldwide about privacy abuses. To that concern, then House Intelligence Chairman Mike Rogers asked me to organize briefings for our European allies who were enraged from the media inaccuracies that conveyed a lack of oversight and accountability of personal data .

The following report outlines the strategy our office embarked upon, having organized three forums of 100 Parliamentarians from over 26 countries at each forum which has helped restore collaboration with our allies, as noted by their letters in the appendix. Our mission continues as we plan our fourth conference at the invitation of the French government to meet in Paris in the spring. Parliamentarians from throughout the world will convene to discuss intelligence collaboration, cyber-security, and terrorism financing with many government officials and experts who will address the delegates.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Enclosed you will find a brief outline of my national security-related foreign travel, as well as a list of legislative initiatives which I drafted and sponsored. This year, I have met with over 240 Members of Parliament throughout Europe and the Middle East to discuss security and terrorism related issues.

National security is one of the foremost responsibilities of our federal government. As a Member of Congress, I have dedicated much of my time over the past year promoting initiatives to protect American interests and keep our country safe.

On the Financial Services Committee, I serve as Vice Chairman of the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing. Outside of Financial Services, I serve as Chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare. These roles are important to me, and I have spent much of 2015 traveling the world in an effort to encourage collaboration on our nation's most important security matters.

Thank you for your continued support, and please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

ISRAEL AND BELGIUM

February 14 - 22, 2015



Purpose: North Atlantic Treaty Organization – Parliamentary Assembly (NATO-PA)

Discussion Topics: NATO's Current Political Agenda; Transatlantic Global Trade Agenda; Hybrid Warfare

Meetings:

- Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel
- Daniel S. Shapiro, U.S. Ambassador to Israel
- Shimon Peres, President of Israel
- Major General Ya'acov Amidor, Chairman, Israel National Security Council
- Ron Dermer, Israeli Ambassador-Designate to the United States
- Ehud Barak, Minister of Defense, Israel
- Tamir Pardo, Director, Mossad



Rep. Pittenger with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Rep. Pittenger with Israeli defense forces.

ISRAEL AND BELGIUM

February 14 - 22, 2015

Day 1, Monday:

Gush Etzion:

Breakfast with Gush Etzion Mayor Davidi Perl, Deputy Mayor Moshe Seville- Regional Council Bob Lang- Head, Efrat Religious Council and Israel advocate

- As early as 1920, Gush Etzion has served as a goal for Jewish pioneers.
- There have been four attempts in our history to settle the Gush Etzion area - 1927, 1935-1936, 1943-1948 and, finally, after 19 years of longing and separation, in 1967 the sons of Gush Etzion returned home.
- Political resolution will never occur, due to outside forces
- Two-state solution not likely to ever be accepted by Palestinians
- "If there is a Jewish Jerusalem today, the Jewish people owe their gratitude to the defenders of Gush Etzion."- David Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister

Path of the Patriarchs:

- Beyond the town of Alon Shvut ("Return of the Oak Tree")
- Roman Milestone
- Ancient Mikveh-ritual bath
- "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask about the ancient paths, 'Which one is the good way?' Take it, and you will find rest for your souls." – Jeremiah 6:16

Visit with Mukhtar Muhammed at Hirbet Zachariah in his home

- No photos allowed of him due to fear of being persecuted
- He is the leader of the community of 600 people, ¼ of which are children- Muslim Arabs

Hebron- Mayor of Jewish community, Noam Arnon, & David Wilder

- 80 Jewish families in the city
- 7,300 total people in the city, 850 are Jews
- Four neighborhoods
- Home of Abraham
- Walls are 450 years old
- "This is the root of it all, you can see it, you can feel it"
- Everything is political and religious
- Just like Israel is surrounded by Arab states, the city of Hebron is too, on a smaller scale

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Cave of the Patriarchs

- Connection between Jewish people and the State of Israel
- Only place in the world you can see structures 2,000 years old still intact, and in use today
- From 1267-1967, Jews and Christians were denied access

Nadia Matar-Givat Oz V'Gaon- Named after three kidnapped boys, site of Jewish women in Green

- Women in Green, founded in 1993 by Ruth and Michael Matar, is a grassroots movement of women and men, young and old, secular and religious, all bound together by a shared concern, love, devotion and loyalty to the Land of Israel
- Our movement is dedicated to safeguarding our God given Biblical Homeland

“A Warm Spot” for the soldiers, with love from the locals:

- A response to two terrorist attacks in which Dr. Shmuel Gillis of Carmei Tzur and Tzachi Sasson of Rosh Tzurim were killed on their way home to Gush Etzion from work in Jerusalem.
- The Pina Chama is open each day from morning until night in order to give attention and love to the soldiers and security officers serving in the area.
- The Pina Chama serves hot and cold drinks, cakes and cookies baked by residents of Gush Etzion and Efrat, soup in the winter, slush drinks in the summer, and popcorn.

Dinner with General Yaacov Amidror, retired army general and PM National Security Advisor:

- IDF- 36 years
- Discussed Iran, ME, energy, Palestinians options for peace
- General: “Difference between an optimist and a pessimist in the Middle East is Experience”
- General: “There is no worthy agreement, because Americans are “saving face” with Iran.”

Q: Pittenger: “Do you have confidence in the IAEA as they can only visit 17 facilities?”

A: General: “Yes, very restricting. In summary- we have no confidence.”

Q: Pittenger: “What is Israel’s trigger point?”

A: General: “The day we feel that tomorrow will be too late”

- Israel gives Egypt almost all of the information they have.
- No one is taking part in the preparation Israel is doing
- Hezbollah- 10,000 militia

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- “When there is any grave danger in the hands of Hezbollah- We bomb it!”
- 150,000 rockets in Lebanon
- Iran: 20% of their outfit can reach the center of Israel
- Hamas is independent: The problem is the tunnels and the fact they produce weapons in country.
- Countries Israel assists in Aide:
 - India
 - Singapore
 - France and Germany- Unmanned aircraft
 - Poland
 - Kenya and Nigeria- Weapons systems
- General: “No better provider for intelligence than Israel”
- General: Israel is picking between two bad options- ISIS or Hezbollah
- ISIS can infiltrated Jordan because of so many Sunnis
- “Do not invest much in Pakistan”
- China- “Big market, we try to enhance relations. No role in Middle East”
- There is a competition between terrorist cells, specifically in Syria
- Weapons systems in Jordan, Israel gives them everything they have asked for- mainly on the intelligence side.
- President Obama has allowed the United State to be able to take out terrorist weapons and threats in one to two days. Was not available under Bush.

Day 2, Tuesday

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

- When asked about being “shut out” by the Obama Administration, he stated there had been reference to that.
- “Bombs are not going to distinguish between Democrats & Republicans”
- Current agreement would allow Iran the opportunity to build multiple nuclear weapons in the next 2-3 years
- Israel wants to reach a deal that will actually solve the problem
- Iran charging through Middle East. In charge of four capitals: Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus and Yemen
- Thousands of Hezbollah under Iran
- If agreement goes through, it will nuclearize Middle East
- Deal may not happen, simply because Iran doesn’t want it to happen
- Pittenger: “What can we do to help you?”
- PM: “Broad Audience, non-partisan.”
- Pittenger: “Will America be there for you?”

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- PM: "I hope so."

Deputy Foreign Minister Tzachi Hanegbi- Discussed group meeting in DC March 1st week. His mother Geulah Cohen in the 1940s underground Irgun/Etzel organization.

- "The whole picture is important to know that we are getting your (USA) help."
- COHEN, GEULAH (1929–), Israeli politician, member of the Eighth to Twelfth Knessets.

Uri Bank, Secretary-General of "Jewish Home" Party

- The Israel initiative is a peace plan to the Middle East by offering a solution to the failed "two-state" paradigm.
- Offers rehabilitation to the Palestinian Refugees and Israeli sovereignty

Dorad Power Plant, Ashkelon, just north of Gaza and chief engineer Daniel Jaffe

- The plant has a number of unique design parameters, leading to an as built concrete quantity in excess of 40,000m³. The plant design also consists of 3,600 tonnes of steel, in various pipe racks and structures.
- The Combined-Cycle Power Plant uses 12 dual fuel GE LM 6000 Gas Turbines exhausting to 12 Once Through Steam Generators that provide steam to 2 Skoda Steam Turbines.

IDF spokesman accompany to Iron Dome - videos:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_89139WKho
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/idfnadesk> (general resource)
- <http://besacenter.org/mideast-security-and-policy-studies/israels-air-missile-defense-2014-gaza-war/>

"Black Arrow" lookout with IDF

- Perched on a hill overlooking a portion of the patrol road and electronic fence surrounding the Gaza Strip - and affording a view over the Palestinian neighborhoods and Mediterranean beyond
- The sheer size of the site and the number of soldiers and civilians memorialized in the groups of enormous white rocks placed around the site forcefully brings home some of the heavy Israeli losses incurred in military and terrorist action over a three year period in the 1950s.
- On each of the large rocks spread out over the extensive Black Arrow site, a plaque gives details of each of those raids

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City of Sderot- On the border- Police station's Scud missile collection

- Very powerful video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceb28sWxUx8>

Dinner with Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations- Head- Malcolm Honlein

- www.confereneceofpresidents.org/about/members
- Caroline Glick, leading author, journalist, public figure
- www.carolineglick.com

Day 3, Wednesday

Temple Mount with the Temple Institute:

https://www.templeinstitute.org/police_business.htm

IDF spokesman accompany to IDF military courts, outside of Ramallah - with President of the court, Judge Menachem Lieberman.

- War on public opinion - UN etc. - disinformation via NGOs:
- <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/3822b5e39951876a85256b6e0058a478/1ee6b43ba34634f885257b260051c8ff?OpenDocument>
- http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/category.php?id=Arz7dmz6Lla968118AE0n1s-s5pyg&srcopt=1&page=10&srckey=&fromdate=&todate=&art_field=

Helicopter to north- geopolitical birds' eye view

- Leon Blankroft and "direct to the soldier" organization:
- www.yasharlachayal.org

Day 4, Thursday (Snow)

Overlook from southern Jerusalem, over the city

- US consulate/potential embassy site

Shomron (Samaria) and Binyamin regions- Industrial zone, Arab and Jewish workers: Peace on the ground

Ancient Shiloh- site of the Tabernacle- heard from Eliana, resident's point of view

- Shiloh was centrally located in Palestine, a city in Mount Ephraim and its location is described in the Bible as "a place which is on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebanon"

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- The site is identified with Khirbet Seilun, about 20 miles N of Jerusalem. The mound is about 12 acres, and contains many of the remains of the biblical Shiloh. The word Shiloh has always been understood in Rabbiinic Judaism as referring to the Messiah because of Jacob's blessing of the tribe of Judah "until Shiloh comes" (Genesis 49:10).

Jerusalem: A City Divided

- There has been a Jewish presence in Jerusalem for 3,000 years and a Jewish majority since at least 1844.
- Since Israel united Jerusalem in 1967, the Arab population has quadrupled, and Jerusalem has become an open international city embracing all religions.
- Today there are 225,000 Jews living in East Jerusalem, half the total population of the Eastern part of the city.
- Jerusalem was never the capital of any other nation in history except for the Jews.
- During Jordanian rule over Jerusalem (1948 – 1967) the city was gravely neglected and closed to Jews and Christians. Today, the city flourishes and is open to all religions.
- Until 1967, the Palestinians considered themselves to be an integral part of the Arab world and not as a separate nationality. Moreover, they never before claimed that Jerusalem was their capital.
- Jerusalem never appears even once in the Koran. The prophet of Islam never once visited Jerusalem. There is only a Moslem legend that claims that Mohammed was brought to Jerusalem in the dark of night by the angel Gabriel.

Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) Interview at Hotel

Briefing: Michael Eisenberg- entrepreneur, Israel Start-up Nation

Dinner: Republicans Abroad Israel- part of Republicans overseas- Marc Zell, Chairman- on FATCA and voter registration for 2016

Town Hall Meeting

- 60 Jerusalemite Americans in attendance
- Issues discussed
 - Obama/Republicans on Israel
 - Being outspoken on Israel
 - Prime Minister speech in Congress

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Day 5, Friday (Snow)

Walking tour of Jerusalem's Old City

Traditional Shabbat dinner at Martin Rapoport's home with former Justice Minister Yaacov Neeman and young soldiers.

Day 6, Saturday- (Shabbat)

Ambassador Yoram Ettinger- briefing- US-Israeli relations- a joint effort + demographics and resolutions

- Israeli-American relations is a two-way street- mutually beneficial
 1. US special operations units trained in Israel before arrival to Iraq and Afghanistan;
 2. Israel armor plating technology saves life of US soldiers;
 3. Israel is a cost-effective, battle-tested laboratory for the US defense industries;
 4. Israel provides the US more intelligence than all NATO countries combined;
 5. US battle tactics formulated according to the Israeli playbook;
 6. Israel is a strategic beachhead of the US in the Middle East;
 7. Israel is the largest US aircraft carrier, which doesn't require a single US boot on board;
- Israeli service for America- U.S. formulates battle tactics from Israeli Military and information
- Every day, American soldiers are trained for warfare by Israeli information
- \$3.1 billion a year to Israel should not be looked at as foreign aid, but rather an American investment
- Over 700 Israeli modifications on American technology
- In 2003, America allowed Assad not to fear with Colin Powell and calm talks with Iran
- In 2014, the US faces a most vicious Islamic terrorist threat, which benefits from hundreds of sleeper cells on the US mainland, is not amenable to peaceful coexistence and is not driven by the Palestinian issue, but by a 14-century-old intolerant violent Islamic ideology
- Iran annually celebrates November 4 as "Death to America Day," commemorating the 1979 seizure of the US Embassy, featuring a burning of the American flag.
- Iran is the leading sponsor of global Islamic terrorism, including hundreds of sleeper cells in the US
- Iran collaborates with the anti-US regimes in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Cuba,

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is expanding ties with Argentina and seeking enhanced ties with Mexico

- Iran fuels Shiite subversion and terrorism in the Persian Gulf – especially in Bahrain and the Al-Hasa oil region of Saudi Arabia - in order to topple “apostate” regimes. Hence, the unprecedented homeland security cooperation between Israel and Arab Gulf States.
- Iran dominates much of Iraq, threatens the survival of the pro-US regimes of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and has expanded anti-US Iraqi terrorism, as it has done in Afghanistan.
- Iran is the key supporter of Syria’ Assad regime and Hezbollah, which has terrorized Lebanon, targeting Americans, as demonstrated by the two 1983 car bombs which claimed the lives of 300 US Marines at the US Embassy and Marines headquarters in Beirut.

Tour Judean desert, Kumran- Second temple period Essean Community

Dinner with PJTN and Avi Abelow, social media in the service of Israel messaging – fighting BDS (boycott divest sanction) sharing content wider and farther

GERMANY

April 8 - 12, 2015



Purpose: Congress-Bundestag Forum

Discussion Topics: Politics in Germany; Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnerships; Cooperation on Foreign Policy Challenges; Intelligence Sharing

Meetings:

- Stormy-Annika Mildner, Head of Department External Economic Policy, Federation of German Industries
- Stephan Steinlein, German State Secretary, Federal Foreign Office
- Emily Haber, German State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior
- Dagmar Hovestadt, Federal Commission for the Stasi Records
- Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman, Munich Security Conference



Stephan Steinlein
German State Secretary
Federal Foreign Office



Emily Haber
German State Secretary
Federal Ministry of the Interior

FRANCE, GERMANY, AUSTRIA

May 4 - 9, 2015



Purpose: Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

Discussion Topics: Cybersecurity; Intelligence Collaboration; Intelligence Oversight; Counter-Terrorism Initiatives

Forum Participants/Meetings:

- Alexa Wesner, U.S. Ambassador to Austria
- John E. Smith, Associate Director, Office of Foreign Asset Control
- Frederick Reynolds, Deputy Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
- Andreas Schieder, Member of Parliament, Austria
- Rachel Brand, U.S. Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board
- Gerhart Holzinger, President, Austrian Constitutional Court
- Giovanni Buttarelli, European Union Data Protection Supervisor
- Werner Amon, Member of Parliament, Austria
- Thomas Wuchte, Head of Anti-Terrorism Issues, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Doris Bures, President, Austrian National Council
- Arta Dade, Member of Parliament, Albania
- Bernd Schonegger, Member of Parliament, Austria
- Andreas Karlsbock, Member of Parliament, Austria
- Peter Pilz, Member of Parliament, Austria
- Jessi Lintl, Member of Parliament, Austria
- Christoph Vavrik, Member of Parliament, Austria
- Sifet Podzic, Chairman, Joint Committee for Defence and Security, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Borislav Bojic, Deputy Chair, Joint Committee for Defence and Security, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Borjana Kristo, Deputy Chair, Joint Committee for Defence and Security, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Atanas Atanassov, Member of Parliament, Bulgaria
- Dimitar Lazarov, Member of Parliament, Bulgaria
- Valentin Kasabov, Member of Parliament, Bulgaria
- Tsvetan Tsvetanov, Member of Parliament, Bulgaria
- Filip Popov, Member of Parliament, Bulgaria
- Josip Leko, Speaker of Parliament, Croatia
- Miroslav Tudman, Member of Parliament, Croatia
- Gordan Jandrovic, Member of Parliament, Croatia
- Marios Ieronymides, Cyprus Ambassador to Slovenia
- Roman Vana, Member of Parliament, Czech Republic
- Bronislav Schwarz, Member of Parliament, Czech Republic
- Gergely Gulyas, Member of the National Assembly, Hungary
- Katalin Csobor, Member of the National Assembly, Hungary
- Matyas Firtl, Member of National Assembly, Hungary
- Andras Schiffer, Member of the National Assembly, Hungary
- Tamas Harangozo, Member of the National Assembly, Hungary
- Adam Mirkoczki, Member of the National Assembly, Hungary
- Pat Breen, Member of Parliament, Ireland
- Paolo Alli, Member of Parliament, Italy
- Solvita Aboltina, Member of Parliament, Latvia
- Ainars Latkovskis, Member of Parliament, Latvia
- Arturas Paulauskas, Member of Parliament, Lithuania
- Emanuelis Zingeris, Member of Parliament, Lithuania
- Angelo Farrugia, Speaker of Parliament, Malta
- Godfrey Farrugia, Member of Parliament, Malta
- Chris Said, Member of Parliament, Malta
- Kenneth Svendsen, Member of Parliament, Norway
- Kaare Simensen, Member of Parliament, Norway
- Ulf Leirstein, Member of Parliament, Norway
- Sergio Sousa Pinto, Member of Parliament, Portugal
- Petru Gabriel Vlase, Member of Parliament, Romania
- Branko Grims, Member of Parliament, Slovenia
- Zan Mahnic, Member of Parliament, Slovenia
- Ana Belen Vazquez, Member of Parliament, Spain
- Sebastian Gonzalez, Member of Parliament, Spain
- Julio Villarubia, Member of Parliament, Spain
- Bjorn Soder, Member of Parliament, Sweden
- Arhe Hamednaca, Member of Parliament, Sweden
- Anti Avsan, Member of Parliament, Sweden
- Hans Altherr, Senator, Switzerland
- Devin Nunes, Chairman, U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

See letters in appendix to Congressman Pittenger from Palimentary delegates

FRANCE

June 12 - 14, 2015

Purpose: Organization of Iranian American Communities

Discussion Topics: Iran threats and challenges; Proposed Iran sanctions agreement; Middle East security challenges; Transatlantic cooperation

Meetings:

- Daniel W. Yohannes, U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Peter Haas, Deputy Permanent Representative to OECD
- Leila Aichi, Senator of Paris
- Spoke to 100,000 people at an Iranian pro-democracy rally



Daniel Yohannes
U.S. Ambassador to OECD



Peter Haas
Deputy Permanent Resident to OECD



Rep. Pittenger addressing over 100,000 people at an Iranian pro-democracy rally in Paris.



Leila Aichi
Senator of Paris

BELGIUM, LATVIA, POLAND, ESTONIA, UNITED KINGDOM

August 2 - 9, 2015

Purpose: House Armed Services Committee Congressional Delegation

Discussion Topics: Inspection of U.S. and allied NATO installations within European Command; NATO force readiness; NATO Eastern border challenges

Meetings:

- General Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander, U.S. European Command
- Douglas E. Lute, U.S. Ambassador to NATO
- Tomasz Siemoniak, Deputy Prime Minister, Poland
- Grzegorz Schetyna, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Poland
- Andrejs Pildegovics, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Latvia
- Rihards Kozlovskis, Minister of Internal Affairs, Latvia
- Taavi Roivas, Prime Minister, Estonia
- Mikk Marran, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defense, Estonia
- Alex Carlile, House of Lords, United Kingdom
- Malcolm Rifkind, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom
- David Amess, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom
- Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom



General Breedlove
Supreme Allied Commander
U.S. European Command



Amb. Douglas Lute
U.S. Ambassador to NATO



Taavi Roivas
Prime Minister of Estonia

FRANCE, TURKEY, QATAR, JORDAN

August 30 - September 7, 2015

Purpose: Financial Services Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing
Congressional Delegation

Discussion Topics: Terrorist group financing

Meetings:

- Rick McDonnell, Executive Director, Financial Action Task Force
- Benoit de la Chappelle Bizot, Deputy Director, French Banking Association
- Jane Hartley, U.S. Ambassador to France
- Bruno Dalles, Director, Tracfin (French Financial Intelligence Unit)
- Jerome Beaumont, Deputy Director, Tracfin
- John Bass, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey



Amb. Jane Hartley
U.S. Ambassador to France



John Bass
U.S. Ambassador to Turkey



Bruno Dalles
Director of Tracfin
(French Financial Intelligence Unit)

CHINA

October 12 - 19, 2015



*Rep. Pittenger with Vice Chairman Cao Weizhou (center)
Standing Deputy Secretary General, Foreign Affairs Committee*

Purpose: Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare

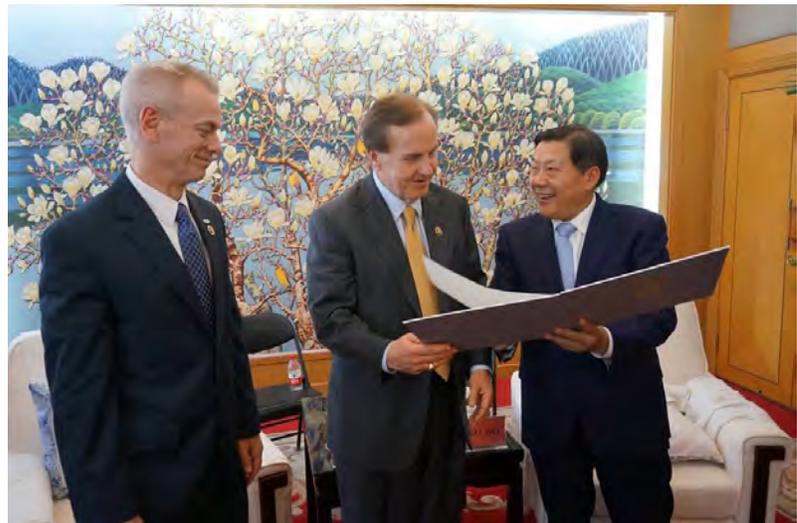
Discussion Topics: Cybersecurity; Money laundering; Trade

Meetings:

- Max Baucus, U.S. Ambassador to China
- Lu Kang, Director-General, Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China
- Cao Weizhou, Deputy Secretary General, Foreign Affairs Committee, China
- Lu Wei, Minister, Office of Cyberspace Affairs, Cyberspace Administration of China
- Jiang Jianyong, State Administration for Religious Affairs, China
- Zhu Guangyao, Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance, China
- Gong Guijun, Deputy Director General, Xi'an Municipal Foreign Affairs, China
- Xu Qin, Mayor, Shenzhen, China



*Amb. Max Baucus
U.S. Ambassador to China*



*Rep. Pittenger with Lu Wei
Office of Cyberspace Affairs, Cyberspace Administration of China*

CHINA

October 12 - 19, 2015



Lu Kang
Director General, Department of Information
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



*Rep. Pittenger addressing the Shenzhen
Christian Church.*



Vice Minister Jiang Jianyong
State Administration for Religious Affairs



Rep. Pittenger with Lu Kang (center).
Director General, Department of Information
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Vice Minister Zhu Guangyao
Ministry of Finance

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE-SECURITY FORUM

October 27 -28, 2015



Purpose: Engage allies in dialogue to further coordination on national security efforts

Discussion Topics: Intelligence Collaboration, Cybersecurity, Counter Terrorist

This year we hosted over 100 Members of Parliament and officials from over 25 countries for the 3rd Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum in Washington, D.C. For two days, discussions were held on how to reconcile strategy, budgeting, and policy initiatives on a range of issues, including countering terrorist group financing, cybersecurity, and international counterterrorism policies.

Members of Congressional Leadership who participated:

- Mr. Jeb Hensarling, Chairman, House Committee on Financial Services
- Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Chairman, Financial Services Committee Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing
- Mr. Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary
- Mr. Devin Nunes, Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
- Mr. Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader

Executive Branch officials who participated:

- Ms. Rachel Brand, Board Member, Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board
- Mr. James Dempsey, Board Member, Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board
- Mr. Jamal El-Hindi, Deputy Director, Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

Notable Experts who participated:

- General Michael Hayden, Former Director, National Security Agency
- General Keith B. Alexander, Former Director, National Security Agency
- Mr. Rudy Giuliani, Former Mayor, New York City

See letters in appendix to Congressman Pittenger from Parliamentary delegates



Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

October 27-28

Members Room Library of Congress
Washington, DC

Tuesday October 27, 2015

12:00 – 1:00 PM

*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Registration / Networking Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 PM

*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Welcome / Opening Statements

Chairman Hensarling/ Chairman Fitzpatrick

1:30 – 2:00 PM

*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Judiciary Branch Intelligence Community Oversight

Chairman Goodlatte

2:00 – 3:00 PM

*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Trans-Atlantic Relationship / Current Threats

Secretary Chertoff

Intro: House Leadership

3:00 – 4:00 PM

*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Executive Branch Intelligence Community Oversight

Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board

4:00 – 5:00 PM

*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Legislative Branch Intelligence Community Oversight

Chairman Nunes

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Dinner

Wednesday October 28, 2015

8:30 AM
*US Capitol
East Steps*

Morning Assemble

9:15 AM
US Capitol

Group Photograph
House Leadership

10:00 – 11 AM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Treasury Dept: Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
Deputy Director Jamal El-Hindi

11:00 – 12:00 PM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Foundation for Defense of Democracies
Counter-Terrorism Financing

12:00 – 1:00 PM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Cyber-Security / Intelligence
General Hayden, former Director, National Security Agency
General Alexander, former Director, National Security Agency

1:00 – 1:30 PM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 PM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

French Financial Intelligence
Jérôme Beaumont, Deputy Director, TRACFIN

2:30 – 3:30 PM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Money-Laundering / Cyber-Espionage
US-China Economic Security Review Commission

3:30 – 4:15 PM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Countering Domestic Violent Extremism
Mayor Giuliani

4:15 – 4:45 PM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Closing Remarks
House Leadership

4:45 – 5:30 PM
*Library of Congress
Members Room*

Media Hour
National and International Media available for interviews

Taskforce Recommendations

The following recommendations were produced on behalf of the Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare and do not necessarily represent the views of the Forum participants or panelists. The recommendations are published by Representative Pittenger in his role as Chairman of the Taskforce.

Countering Terrorism Financing

Recommendation 1: Congress should work with financial institutions to collect and share beneficial ownership information on companies, trusts, and other legal entities that are registered within the United States.

The increased transparency as result of this policy change should help enforcement agencies track illicit money laundering operations and prevent the flow of funding to terrorists and terror organizations.

Further, Congress should consider additional enhanced data sharing initiatives between the government and private financial institutions to facilitate data analyzation.

Recommendation 2: Congress should codify the ability of financial institutions to share customer information with one another for the purposes of tracking illicit behavior that intersects multiple bank accounts and multiple institutions.

Facilitating bank-to-bank communication should assist law enforcement's ability to track the flow of dollars to terror organizations.

Recommendation 3: Congress should compel foreign governments to better enforce their own terror finance laws.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) rates countries and their efforts to enforce terror financing laws. FATF, itself, is not an enforcement agency. Congress should consider tying foreign assistance and foreign training programs with international FATF ratings, ensuring that foreign governments have a distinct incentive to better enforce their own terror finance laws. There must be a method to ensure cooperation.

Recommendation 4: Congress should support and reauthorize Section 311 of the Patriot Act, which allows the Treasury Department to take measures against foreign financial institutions that pose an identifiable money laundering threat.

Under Section 311, once a financial institution is designated by Treasury as a money laundering concern, Treasury can then impose special measures against the institution, including barring access to U.S. financial institutions.

The enforcement of Section 311 in non-complying countries is an effective tool in restricting money transfers through the international financial systems.

Recommendation 5: Congress should address the illicit money laundering situation in the Chinese casino territory, Macau.

It is estimated that the actual Macau market is six times its officially reported size, being valued approximately \$200 billion.¹ Much of that unreported market revolves around a process referred to as junket gambling. This process is notorious for facilitating illicit dollar transfers for criminal, drug, terror, or other illegal enterprises.

The Taskforce recommends that Congress investigate the junket gambling circuit in Macau and possibly impose penalties on casinos that facilitate illegal money transfers.

Cybersecurity

Recommendation 1: The General Services Administration (GSA) should impose stricter subcontractor security requirements when approving vendors that sell information technology (IT) equipment to the federal government. These standards should be modeled after current Defense Department (DOD) rules.

Section 806 of the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act required the Defense Department to better manage its internal supply chain risks.² In turn, DOD imposed contract solicitation rules that require prime contractors to verify and be responsible for the security and supply chain provided by subcontractors. These rules have been updated by the Defense Department as of October 2015.³ The Taskforce recommends that GSA consider adopting DOD's rule mechanism that requires prime contractors to assume greater supply chain security responsibilities for subcontractors they utilize.

Recommendation 2: Congress should impose a licensing requirement for Chinese state-owned telecommunications companies who wish to expand in the U.S. marketplace.

The Chinese government identifies strategic industries. Telecommunications is a chosen strategic industry, and the Chinese government maintains broad control over its state-owned companies.

The House Intelligence Committee produced an unclassified report in 2012 detailing the security threats posed by Chinese state-owned telecommunication companies.⁴ There, House Intelligence recommended that the government avoid contracting with Chinese state-owned telecommunication companies. Additionally, House Intelligence recommended that the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) block acquisitions, takeovers, or mergers involving these companies.

Echoing the sentiment in this report, the Taskforce recommends that Congress impose a licensing requirement on Chinese state-owned telecommunications companies who wish to expand in the United States. This license should be consistent with the import control authority authorized by the Arms

¹ U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission 2013 Annual Report, Page 355

² Public Law 111-383, § 806, 111th Congress, January 7, 2011

³ Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Requirements Relating to Supply Chain Risk (DFARS Case 2012-D050), *Federal Register*, October 30, 2015, found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/10/30/2015-27463/defense-federal-acquisition-regulation-supplement-requirements-relating-to-supply-chain-risk-dfars>

⁴ "Investigative Report on the U.S. National Security Issues Posed by Chinese Telecommunications Companies Huawei and ZTE." House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, October 8, 2012.

Export Control Act⁵ and be imposed to ensure that malicious telecommunication vendors cannot expand their role in the U.S. marketplace.

Recommendation 3: The United States and its allies should consider formulating a national counter-intrusion cyber-defense strategy.

As the Taskforce has witnessed, the United States does not have a uniform strategic response to state-sponsored cyber-attacks. The Taskforce recommends that Congress consider:

- Imposing penalties on states that sponsor cyber-attacks;
- Authorizing counter-intrusions as a response to cyber-attacks;
- Incentivizing federal law enforcement to more proactively publicize warrants for suspected state-sponsored hackers.

Recommendation 4: The Executive Branch should respect current law that prohibits NASA from engaging in bilateral space-related activities with China.⁶

Current law requires Congressional approval or a 30 day advance notification and security certification sent to Congress if the administration wishes to work with China in space. It has been reported that the State Department began a U.S.-China Civil Space Dialogue in October 2015, in direct violation of Congressionally mandated restrictions.⁷

The Taskforce recommends that Congress hold the administration accountable for violating current law regarding space relations with China.

International Counterterrorism Policy

ISIS remains an unsolved problem for this administration. The longer ISIS remains on the battlefield, the more efficient the group's propaganda and recruitment efforts become. This leads to a proliferation of ISIS-related attacks, similar to the attacks in Paris and San Bernardino.

The Taskforce believes that if it is truly the administration's policy to degrade and defeat ISIS,⁸ then it should take appropriate steps to achieve the stated goal. To date, the United States has yet to promote a serious counter-ISIS strategy that attempts to "defeat" the group. To the contrary, news reports only indicate additional terrorist attacks around the world and ISIS's ability to expand to parts of Northern Africa.

This administration has relied largely on precision airstrike operations to target ISIS. America has led significant bombing campaigns that have resulted in the destruction of meaningful targets, however these attacks have not demonstrated any significant strategic gains towards actually defeating the organization.

⁵ 22 U.S.C. § 2778 (a)(1)

⁶ FY15 Commerce, Justice, and Science House Report (H. Rept. 113-448, Page 89, Section 552); included in FY15 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R.83; Public Law No: 113-235)

⁷ "Muted Response from Critics as State Department Prepares for Space Talks with China." *Space Policy Online*, August 3, 2015, found at <http://www.spacepolicyonline.com/news/muted-response-from-critics-as-state-department-prepares-for-space-talks-with-china>

⁸ 2015 National Security Strategy, Page 2

In December 2015, the President announced that the United States and its allies have conducted approximately 9,000 airstrikes on ISIS targets.⁹ The President indicated that the United States is hitting ISIS “harder than ever.”¹⁰ However, it is important to reflect on what we have to show for it.

For the past year and a half, our Defense Department has consistently estimated that ISIS forces remain between 20,000 and 30,000 soldiers¹¹ – indicating that airstrikes alone have not impacted the number of soldiers on the battlefield.

Additionally, this administration has done little to undermine or disrupt ISIS’s headquarter operations in Ar Raqqa. This is largely because it appears to be difficult to expand an airstrike-only policy into Raqqa due to the dense civilian population and high probability of collateral damage.¹² ISIS compounds are firmly entrenched in civilian areas, which restricts American bombardment abilities.

In September 2015, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dempsey, referred to our current airstrike strategy to defeat ISIS as tactically stalemated.¹³ Further, in July 2015, Army Chief of Staff, General Odierno, stated that he believes ISIS will fight for 10 to 20 years if they are not otherwise promptly removed from the battlefield.¹⁴

As recently as November 2015, U.S. Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James commented on how air power alone cannot accomplish the strategic goal of defeating ISIS:

“Air power is extremely important. It can do a lot but it can’t do everything. [...] Ultimately, it cannot occupy territory and very importantly it cannot govern territory. [...] This is where we need to have boots on the ground. We do need to have ground forces in this campaign.”¹⁵

Defense Secretary Carter has echoed that the United States is currently not doing enough to defeat ISIS:

“But if you say, is it enough [our current strategy]? I don’t think it’s enough. I think we’re looking to do more. But the fundamental strategy in Iraq and Syria for dealing with ISIL and dealing a lasting defeat to ISIL is to identify then train, equip, and enable local forces that keep the peace.”¹⁶

⁹ “Obama: ISIS Strategy ‘moving forward with great sense of urgency.’” *CNN*, December 14, 2015, *found at* <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/14/politics/obama-pentagon-isis-strategy/>

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ “ISIS can ‘muster’ between 20,000 and 31,500 fighters, CIA says.” *CNN*, September 12, 2014, *found at* <http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/11/world/middleeast/isis-syria-iraq/>; *see also* “ISIS By the Numbers: Foreign Fighter Total Keeps Growing.” *NBC News*, February 28, 2015, *found at* <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/isis-numbers-foreign-fighter-total-keeps-growing-n314731>; *see also* “Thousands Enter Syria to Join ISIS Despite Global Efforts.” *New York Times*, September 26, 2015, *found at*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/27/world/middleeast/thousands-enter-syria-to-join-isis-despite-global-efforts.html>

¹² “Strikes on Raqqa in Syria Lead to More Questions Than Results.” *New York Times*, November 17, 2015, *found at* <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/18/world/middleeast/strikes-on-raqqa-in-syria-lead-to-more-questions-than-results.html>

¹³ “Sources Detail Skewed Reports On How The U.S. Is Doing Against ISIS.” *NPR*, September 18, 2015, *found at* <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/09/16/440969194/sources-detail-skewed-reports-on-how-the-u-s-is-doing-against-isis>

¹⁴ “Odierno: ISIS Fight Will Last ‘10 To 20 Years.’” *Defense News*, July 17, 2015, *found at*

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/2015/07/17/odierno-isis-fight-last-10-20-years/30295949/>

¹⁵ “USAF Secretary: War on IS Needs ‘Boots on Ground.’” *Defense News*, November 10, 2015, *found at* <http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/2015/11/10/usaf-secretary-war-needs-boots-ground/75527160/>

¹⁶ “Remarks on ‘Strategic and Operational Innovation at a Time of Transition and Turbulence’ at Reagan Defense Forum.” Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, U.S. Department of Defense, November 7, 2015, *found at*

<http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/628147/remarks-on-strategic-and>

Unfortunately, Secretary Carter's aforementioned statement came a month after it was widely reported that the United States would be scaling back its Syria rebel training program.¹⁷ This drawdown was a reflection of the program's overall failure, which culminated in General Lloyd Austin testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee that, as of September 2015, the U.S. had only "4 or 5" active rebels in its training program.¹⁸

Recommendation 1: The United States should ensure the policies it implements reflect the country's stated strategic goals.

As stated previously in this report, history is not kind to nation-states that do not reconcile policy and resource allocation with stated strategic goals. The Taskforce believes the administration must act urgently to review its current policies to ensure they align with strategic goals they are willing to achieve. The United States will not be able to effectively defeat ISIS if its policies do not match its strategic goals.

Recommendation 2: Congress should create an independent commission to review the effectiveness of conducting airstrikes against terror organizations without an accompanied ground campaign.

As stated by Air Force Secretary James, airstrikes alone, while effective, cannot substitute for a comprehensive strategy to defeat a terrorist organization. The United States, however, has implemented this strategy repeatedly for decades.

Many Presidents, including Reagan, Clinton, and Bush 43 have utilized airstrike-only policies in certain circumstances to address terrorist organizations. However, no President has relied on an airstrike-only policy as extensively as the Obama administration, and few would have anticipated that this airstrike implementation would have lasted as long as it has without the accompaniment of ground troops.

The Taskforce agrees that it is important to posture against enemies of the United States, but cautions that indefinite bombing campaigns should not be employed as a substitute for a strategy to defeat a terrorist organization. Airstrikes serve as an important supplement, but cannot be confused with an affirmative strategy.

As previously mentioned, the United States and coalition forces have conducted over 9,000 airstrikes on ISIS. Yet, it appears the battlefield impact has been minimal, and many disagree as to the effectiveness of airstrikes without troop engagement.

With that in mind, the Taskforce urges Congress to consider tasking a commission to report on the benefits and challenges of restricted airstrike-only campaigns against terrorist organizations without the presence of a ground campaign. Few predicted that the United States would employ such heavy usage of this strategy, and it is important to quantify what benefits exist to such a strategy.

¹⁷ "Pentagon to Scale Back Troubled Syria Rebel Training Program." *Wall Street Journal*, October 9, 2015, found at <http://www.wsj.com/articles/pentagon-plans-new-approach-on-syria-rebel-training-1444394385>

¹⁸ "You Can Literally Count the Number of U.S.-Trained Syrians Fighting ISIS on One Hand." *U.S. News*, September 16, 2015, found at <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/09/16/general-only-4-or-5-us-trained-syrian-fighters-operating-against-isis>

Recommendation 3: The United States should develop a strategy to effectively deal with Russia and its placement of air defense systems within Syria.

It was reported in November 2015 that Russia delivered and deployed air defense systems into Syria.¹⁹ Strategically, the presence of Russian air defense systems in Syria significantly challenges American regional initiatives. The Taskforce believes the United States must create and implement a strategy to diminish Russia's regional presence and stop the flow of Russian military equipment into Syria.



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¹⁹ “Russia deploys cutting-edge S-400 air defense system to Syrian base after Su-24 downing.” *RT News*, November 26, 2015, found at <https://www.rt.com/news/323596-s400-russia-syria-airbase-turkey/>

AFGHANISTAN, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA

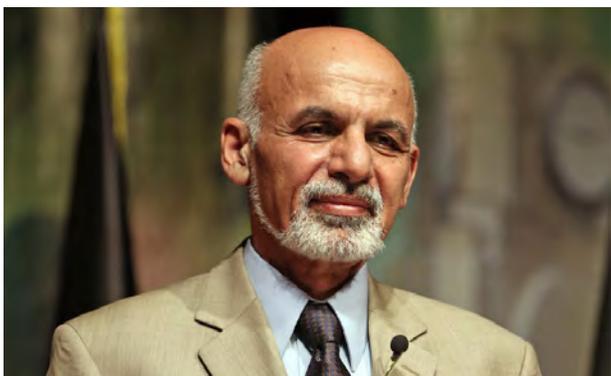
November 19 - 25, 2015

Purpose: House Armed Services Committee Congressional Delegation

Discussion Topics: Civil, military, and political counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism initiatives in Egypt and Afghanistan

Meetings:

- Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President, Egypt
- Colonel General Sedki Sobhi, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Egypt
- Lieutenant General Mahmoud Hegazy, Chief of Staff to General Sobhi, Egypt
- Sameh Hassan Shoukry, Foreign Minister, Egypt
- Ashraf Ghani, President, Afghanistan
- Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of Afghanistan
- Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud, Minister of Defense, Saudi Arabia
- Muhammad bin Nayef, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia
- Miteb bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Minister of the National Guard, Saudi Arabia



President Ashraf Ghani
President of Afghanistan



President Abdel el-Sisi
President of Egypt



Muhammad bin Nayef
Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia



Prince Miteb bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz
Minister of the National Guard
(120,000 man national army)

Congressional Leadership Roles

- House Leadership Whip Team
- Republican Study Committee
- Financial Services Vice Chairman, Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing
- Chairman, Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare

114th Congress, 1st Session, Primary Sponsored Legislation

H.R. 4210: Requiring members of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to testify before Congress at least twice a year;

H.R. 3705, Financial Regulatory Clarity Act of 2015: Requires Financial Services regulatory agencies to determine whether their proposed rules are duplicative or inconsistent with existing rules of other agencies;

H.R. 3538, Metropolitan Weather Hazards Protection Act: Requires the Commerce Department to maintain a Doppler radar within 55 miles of each major city;

H.R. 3300, Unified Savings and Accountability (USA) Act: Would cut wasteful spending by \$57 billion over 10 years;

H.R. 1766, Right to Lend Act: Repeals Dodd-Frank initiatives that require financial institutions to 1. Inquire whether businesses applying for credit are women-owned or minority-owned, and 2. Submit annually to the CFPB the findings of these inquiries;

H.R. 1195, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act: requires Director of CFPB to establish a Small Business Advisory Board to provide information on evolving small business practices.

Urged the FAA to approve construction of a new control tower at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport to handle more flights.

The following are letters from Members of Parliament who have attended and participated in the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forums. The letters express their support and appreciation for the critical dialogue exchanges at each forum.

Fonda, Clark

From: BEAUMONT Jerome
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Fonda, Clark
Cc: DALLES Bruno; GOASGUEN Yannick
Subject: RE: Rep. Pittenger

Dear Mr Fonda

Sorry for my late response and thank you and Congressman Pittenger for your concern.

After difficult and busy days, I take some time to indicate the following :

Please inform Mr Pittenger that My Director and I are ready to support any projects about crossborders, beneficial owners or any other initiative that could improve our common fight against terrorism financing. We are also ready to attend the next forum and if you need we should be able to gather French MPs who will probably be more involved in TF.

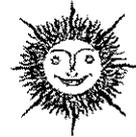
Best regards

Jérôme Beaumont

French Financial Intelligence Unit
TRACFIN



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Nicosia, 16 December 2015

The Hon. Robert Pittinger,
Member of the US Congress,
Washington, D.C..

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your request to provide input for the 3rd Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum, which took place in Washington D.C. last October. Allow me to congratulate you once more for the smooth organization of the conference, which I found of utmost interest.

I would like to once more share my opinion that, as regards internal and by extension international security, a more general cooperation plan and scheme should be developed, in which small countries would be able to participate. This is especially due to the fact that, while their resources are limited, they often have increased needs for security, in particular as a result of their critical location. Alternative ways to overcome this lack of ways, means and know-how should be explored in a collective way, mainly because of the interconnection between each country's security and stability, as well as due to the fact that the now multi-faceted threats to international security are common to us all.

Wishing you every success in your endeavours, particularly in relation to the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum, let me express, dear Colleague, my highest consideration and wish you a very Merry Festive Season and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Demetris Syllouris, MP,
*Deputy Chairman of the House Standing Committee on
Institutions, Merit and the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman).*

ST/ST



Parliament of Romania
Chamber of Deputies

Congressman Robert PITTENGER
Chairman of the Congressional Taskforce on
Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare
U.S. House of Representatives

Bucharest, 4 November 2015
11/3/15/158

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank you for the excellent organization of the Parliamentary Security-Intelligence Forum and the extremely useful discussions regarding the policies in this area.

The current geopolitical context, the dynamic of the events on the old European continent, as well as the danger of growing terrorist threats are most important concerns for our citizens. As a consequence, they represent crucial challenges for us, the representatives of people, accountable and responsible for our electorate.

From this perspective, the Parliamentary Security - Intelligence Forum represented a framework to analyze the optimal transfer of know-how from the states with expertise in this domain to less experienced countries in fighting major threats.

For the Romanian delegation, it was good chance to reiterate, in the discussions with representatives of the guest parliaments and with congressmen serving on several Select Committees, the determination to continue to bring a substantial contribution to the stability in our region and to the general effort on combating terrorism.

Romania is a stability pillar in a region in turmoil and has a unique geostrategic position in the Black Sea area. In this regard, we would like to highlight the involvement of our country, a strategic partner of the U.S., in securing the Euro-Atlantic area, particularly in highly sensitive fields, such as the cyber security.

Please allow me, dear Mr. Chairman, to congratulate you once again for organizing the third edition of this useful thematic forum and to express our openness toward the future collaboration on such issues of great interest for all of us.

Looking forward to furthering the exchange of views on fighting against the current threats to the democratic values, I assure you, dear Mr. Chairman, of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea
Valeriu Ștefan ZGONEA



Dr. Fritz Felgentreu
Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

Dr. Fritz Felgentreu MdB, Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin

The Honorable Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress
House of Representatives
224 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
The United States of America

Berlin, November 20, 2015

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Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum 2015

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter, your hospitality, the vital debate as well as your outstanding support during the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum 2015 in Washington, DC.

The challenges, which we discussed during the forum, will be on the transatlantic agenda for many years to come. The recent attacks in Paris demonstrate that it is significant for the western democracies to develop and implement common answers to these challenges within our community of shared values.

I am very much looking forward to our future meetings and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Fritz Felgentreu



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The Ambassador

Vienna, 30 November 2015

The Honorable Robert Pittenger
Chairman
Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare
Congress of the United States, House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank you for the letter following the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum that took place on 27-28 October 2015 in Washington, D.C. and which I had the pleasure to attend upon your kind invitation.

Indeed, the Forum provided an excellent platform to discuss topical national security and intelligence policy issues, as well as to identify effective ways to counter terrorism and cyber threats.

At the same time, the Forum highlighted once again that the sharing of individual perspectives and best practices, including at parliamentary level, should continue to be regarded as one of our best instruments to highlight both opportunities for cooperation and issues of common concern in further strengthening our responses to such critical threats.

Countering terrorism, in particular the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, the financing of terrorism, and preventing and combating violent extremism are likely to remain prevailing concerns in 2016. The OSCE Security Committee will continue to address these topical issues as priorities also in 2016.

Wishing you every success in your future endeavors in enhancing dialogue and cooperation in countering global terrorism and cyber threats, please accept, Mr. Chairman, the expression of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Cristian Bura



**PARLIAMENT OF ALBANIA
THE SPEAKER**

Tirana, on 04.11.2015

Hon. Robert Pittenger
Chairman
Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare

Dear Chairman Pittenger,

Dear Robert,

It was an honor to be invited and participate in the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum organized so excellently by you in Dc last week. The elaborated presentations and the stirring debates on important themes that threaten our security, priorities in the fight against terrorism and its finances, oversight of our democratic institutions and the role of parliaments were a good opportunity to exchange views and ideas on our national and common efforts to deal with these concerns.

I guaranty you that Albania will continue to be the strongest and most loyal ally of United States in the Balkans and will increase our efforts in dealing with these issues, as well as enhancing our national capacities and strengthen relationship and cooperation with US specialized agencies to prevent and fight terrorism, extremism and its resources.

As we discussed in our meeting, I am personally committed to organize and host in Albania the next round of this esteemed Forum, to bring together high representatives from Parliaments in the region, United States and other partner countries of Euro-Atlantic area and share our experiences on security issues of common concern. This event would be also an excellent opportunity to have a great friend like you in Albania and to enjoy the flavors of a small but ancient Balkan and Mediterranean country.

Expressing to you the assurance of my highest esteem, I remain.

Respectfully,

Ilir Meta





Parlamentul României
Camera Deputaților

June 16, 2015

The Honorable Robert Pittenger

Member of Congress

Chairman, Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare

Dear Robert,

Dear Mr. Pittenger,

Following Vienna Parliamentary Forum, I've send to you a letter expressing my personal thanks, and appreciating your outstanding contribution to the entire organization of the programme and to the success of discussions.

I had in mind how important is to continue consultations with the allied nations on current threats, as well as on the intelligence policy as it relates to civil liberties. Without such an open and targeted exchange of views, we would not be able to harmonize the efforts to overpass the global security challenges confronting our nations.

Your letter dated June 5, 2015, invites to more detailed comments and debates for the future forums, so I feel encouraged to refer further to more global topics, which

are influencing the success in dealing with the multiple and subtle threats of terrorism:

- Since the first Forum, in Washington D.C. (last September), we've seen few strategic challenging trends, mainly continuation of an aggressive behavior of Russia, a wider offensive campaign of ISIS and Syrian Al Nusra Front, and a rise of confrontational policy of China, among others.
- The regional and global events should not be ignored when two topics rightly chosen by Chairman Mike Rogers and Chairman Robert Pittenger at the very beginning of the forum, namely: the current threats facing the allied nations, and intelligence policy as it relates to civil liberties, remain basic pillars for our debates.
- We may, probably in the future, explore few basic interrogations, related to the New World Order, the New Global Security, the New Transatlantic Vision, and the New Intelligence Policy.
- Above all considerations, in order to bring an added value to the fight against terrorism, with the parliamentary tools, we should probably pay a particular attention to the cohesion as a core value of our democracies.

A New World Order?

- The New World Order is the Mega Project of our times. It cannot be imposed, but it should be accepted by all States. What we may read nowadays about BRICS Group (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) intentions is simple, but concerning: *Welcome to a World without the West.*
- What does it mean? "World without West" means that BRICS will not accept a New World Order set by traditional great powers with USA in the

lead. At the same time, it will postpone indefinitely even an agreed upon definition of the *international or global terrorism*.

A New Global Security?

- Global Security means security for all International Community. USA is not the only Superpower of the World. It is the most powerful, but not the only one responsible for global peace and stability. As no state is exempted from globalization process, no state can survive isolated from Global Security engagements.
- NATO and Transatlantic Ties are providing the main security and defense tools for all of us, but this is not enough to settle conflicts and security breaches in Far East and Pacific Region, Indian Ocean, Africa, even in South America. The strategic partnership spectrum of likeminded powers should be wider in the future, and US will need such strategic links with the most significant rising powers in the World, international terrorism being a priority on the strategic agendas.
- The Middle East conflict is not US-Europe versus Arab World, but Islamic terrorism certainly is targeting the West. Middle East Conflict has a regional pattern, but Islamic terrorism has an international one, targeting the entire world. ISIS recruiting process for Jihad in Western countries is a profound tangible anomaly, totally against the nature.

A New Transatlantic Vision?

- Referring recently to ways of rebalancing and reforming the Transatlantic Bond, Senators Christopher Murphy (D-CT) and John McCain (R-AZ) noted significant concern about its long-term sustainability, given current funding

levels as well as the reluctance of many of its member states to undertake crisis management operations going forward. They also advocated for engaging the American people to explain why we have continued to contribute to NATO since the end of the Cold War and what are the challenges brought about by emerging isolationist tendencies in the American political spectrum.

- Given the pressing challenges now, hopes are for the EU and NATO to work together, as challenging as it may be at this moment, to define a set of broader strategic interests as regards nontraditional threats, since the EU is currently set to revise its Security Strategy.
- We may see that the *cohesion* remains the fundamental basis of the Transatlantic structure. It gives always the pattern of the Transatlantic Bond.
- Let us remember that Transatlantic ties changed all along period after Second World War. The engine of solidarity worked differently during the Cold War, during the East-West Détente, or the fall of Communism in Europe. We should also remember the concern about transatlantic solidarity when USSR, the common enemy, dissolved. Looking at the events in Ukraine, should we believe that our security is assured?
- But we have also to ask ourselves: Should the case of Crimea and Ukraine bring the Allies back to the transatlantic *cohesion* of the 50s or 60s? A new transatlantic construction, rebalanced and reformed, as I mentioned at the beginning, should rely on the complicated pattern of the common security in the 21st Century. More than that, when we celebrate the Berlin Wall fall, we should look around concerned that “new walls” would be erected within Europe.
- Nowadays, the strength of the transatlantic bond is of utmost importance for Central and Eastern Europeans. These allied nations are facing serious challenges from Russia’s actions in Eastern Ukraine and are very much

concerned by possible external subversive acts, which are not covered by Article 5.

A New Intelligence Policy?

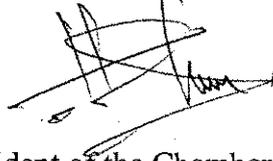
- Intelligence sharing, as cornerstone of interstates security arrangements, will represent an efficient tool in order to prevent or to limit damages caused by security breaches.
- In the Global World, strategic intelligence can be easily obtained. The most difficult thing is to ponder and analyze them, in order to draw the right strategic conclusions. US cannot do it alone. America needs reliable partners. These partners should understand better their security needs, and we all should strengthen our common values.
- There is a big difference between intelligence before „9/11” and after that. Before 9/11, counterterrorism intelligence was centred on identifying intentions and preparations of terrorist attacks. Now, „keep us safe” means, in counterterrorism language, a much wider preventing strategies. ISIS is strengthening his basis for recruitment coming closer to us, to all of us, Syrian Al Nusra Front attracted already almost one thousand warriors from the Eastern Balkans, not to count recruiters from other regions.
- Finally, it should be mentioned that soon, we may identify, within our territories, a genuine 5th Column of ISIS veterans from our citizens, regaining their homes and continuing to work from inside our states for jihadist terrorist groups.

Once again, I wish to express my gratitude for the opportunity to advance some considerations which are validating the magnitude of geopolitical topics related to the fight against global terrorism and other security threats targeting our allied nations. It is also important to reiterate how important is to continue our discussions on intelligence policy and procedures, as well as to include in the next forum panels with senior officials and experts on terrorists and cyber attacks.

Personally, I will be glad to attend the Forum you have in mind in the fall, in Washington D.C.

Sincerely yours,

Petru Gabriel Vlase

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Petru Gabriel Vlase', written over a faint, illegible background.

Vice – President of the Chamber of Deputies

Vice – President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

KAMRA TAD-DEPUTATI



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

L-Speaker

The Speaker

10th June, 2015

Dear colleague

I would like to acknowledge with thanks your letter, dated 5th June 2015, regarding the last Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum, which was held in Vienna on 6th and 7th May 2015. I am sure that I am expressing the views of all present that this meeting was a very fruitful one

I am pleased to inform you that I am always ready to participate in future Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Fora and hence share our Mediterranean expertise in the ever challenging efforts towards our common goal, namely to combat our common enemy, i.e. global terrorism.

Kind regards

Angelo Farrugia

Honourable Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress
Chairman, Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare
Washington DC



Member of the Austrian Parliament
Andreas F. Karlsboeck, M.D.
Chairman of the Committee on Science and Research
Co-Chairman of the Committee on Health
Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and on the Secret Service Committee
Email to: andreas.karlsboeck@parlament.gv.at
A-1017 Vienna – Parliament

May 20, 2015

The Honorable Congressman Robert M. Pittenger
Member of Congress
Chairman, Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare
224 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20510
UNITED STATES

VIENNA PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON INTELLIGENCE-SECURITY 2015

The Honorable Congressman Pittenger,
Dear Robert,

Thank you for coming to Vienna to meet with parliamentarians from Europe and discuss about national security issues during the "Vienna Parliamentary Forum on Intelligence-Security" in May 2015. It was a really great honor for me and the other parliamentarians that you have once more organized such an interesting and important forum with such high-ranking members of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and the OSCE.

We are grateful that you joined us for this important dialogue as we work together on the issue of protecting our national security and exchanging ideas and information about this. The cooperation between our governments and the understanding between the European Parliaments and the U.S. Congress are very essential in our times to achieve maximum success and security.

Therefore it was a really great success holding forums and meetings on intelligence-security to improve the dialogue between parliamentarians and Members of the U.S. Congress in everyone's interest. Personally I think that we should encourage the idea of holding those meetings at regular intervals either in Europe or in the U.S. to continue the productive dialogues in the future and bring the Members of the European Parliaments and the Members of the U.S. Congress closer to each other.

Your friendship and partnership is valued and very much respected.

Sincerely,



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Washington, D.C.

Washington, May 4, 2015

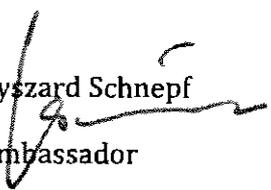
The Honorable Robert Pittenger
Member
of the United States House of
Representatives

Dear Congressman Pittenger,

Enclosed please find a letter from Marshal Radosław Sikorski in regard to your invitation to the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum to be held in Vienna on May 6 and 7, 2015.

Taking this opportunity, may I wish you continued prosperity and all the possible success in your upcoming undertakings.

Sincerely,


Ryszard Schnepf

Ambassador

2640 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

Tel: +1 202 499 1700

Fax: +1 202 234 0626

www.washington.polemb.net

- *unofficial translation* -

Marshall of Sejm
of the Republic of Poland

Dear Congressman Pittenger,

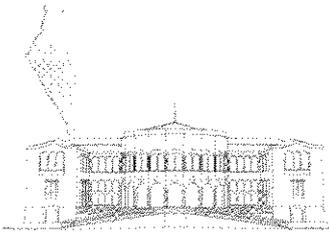
Thank you for the kind invitation addressed to the Parliamentarians of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland inviting them to participate in the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum to be held in Vienna between May 6th and 7th, 2015. I recognize that this is the continuation of your initiative from last September, 2014, which took place in Washington DC in the US Capitol and focused on multidimensional issues of security, particularly as it concerns the growing threat of terrorism. The analysis that took place during this gathering, including security and intelligence policy, is also very important to countries of democratic Europe. This was the report we received back from the 3 Polish Parliamentarians who took part in your conference last year.

Regrettably, participation of the Members of the Sejm during this year's session in Vienna won't be possible, due to our Parliamentary work calendar. It is with deep regret I am obliged to inform you as well as the President of the Parliament in Austria, about these circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity, however, to wish all of the participants of the Forum continued success in developing the analysis and conclusions that strengthen the state of security on our continent and around the world.

Radosław Sikorski

The Honorable Robert Pittenger
Member
of the United States House of Representatives



The Honorable Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress

**Fremskrittspartiets
stortingsgruppe**

Vår dato: June 16, 2015
Vår ref.: UL/BH

Deres dato:
Deres ref.:

Dear Robert,

Thank you very much for your nice letter.

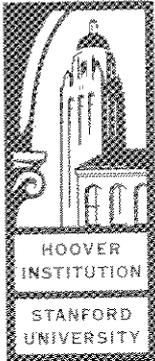
It was nice getting to know you, and very interesting attending the security-intelligence forum.

It would be my pleasure to have you visiting the Norwegian Storting, showing you around and sharing a nice meal with you here in Oslo.

Sincerely,

Ulf Leirstein

Member of the Norwegian Storting



June 8, 2015

GEORGE P. SHULTZ

THOMAS W. AND SUSAN B. FORD

DISTINGUISHED FELLOW

Dear Mr. Pittenger,

Thank you for sending me material on the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security forums held in Vienna and Berlin in May. The work reflected in these meetings is important.

I was surprised, as I guess our European friends were, too, by the much more intense oversight by the United States of its governmental intelligence efforts as compared with that of other countries.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Shultz".

George P. Shultz

The Honorable Robert M. Pittenger
Chairman, Congressional Taskforce on
Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare
US House of Representatives
224 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515



CHINA REPORT

Congressional Delegation Trip
October 12-19, 2015

INTRODUCTION

As the world's most populous nation, China plays an important role in world affairs. Recently, Congressman Robert Pittenger (NC-9) led a Congressional delegation to China to meet with leaders and dialogue about important issues facing the United States and China. Below is a list of officials and organizations that we met with on our trip:

- Ambassador Max Baucus - U.S. Ambassador to China
- Lu Kang - Director-General, Department of Information; Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Vice Chairman Cao Weizhou - Standing Deputy Secretary General; Foreign Affairs Committee
- Chairman James Zimmerman - American Chamber of Commerce
- Minister Lu Wei - Office of Cyberspace Affairs; Cyberspace Administration of China
- Vice President Chen Naiqing - Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs
- Da Wei - China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations
- Vice Minister Jiang Jianyong - State Administration for Religious Affairs
- Vice Minister Zhu Guangyao - Ministry of Finance
- President Ken Jarrett - American Chamber of Commerce
- Gong Guijun - Deputy Director General of Xi'an Municipal Foreign Affairs
- Shenzhen Christian Church
- Xu Qin - Mayor of Shenzhen
- World Presidents' Organization



Congressman Pittenger serves as Chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, Vice Chairman of the Financial Services Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing, Member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and is also a member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Enclosed is a record of dialogues with Chinese and other officials we had in Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen regarding important issues including monetary policy, terrorism financing, cyber security, and freedoms of conscience. As a major world power, it is vital that we maintain an open dialogue with China as we address these important issues facing our nations.

Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress
North Carolina's 9th District

U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus

“We are making headway on cyber war. Five to six months ago they [China] wouldn’t admit to commercial and government cyber threats, but now they do.”

- Ambassador Max Baucus



- Almost \$600 billion in trade between China and U.S. last year
- China invests more money in the U.S. than the U.S. does in China
- China is the world’s largest importer of coal & oil

Ambassador Baucus: “For years, the Chinese couldn’t care less about climate change. Now, they do because it allows for the opportunity for them to push back in regard to other reforms.”

- Ambassador Baucus believes the Chinese Communist Party will stay in power for a long period of time.

Pittenger: “In your opinion, what do you believe will be the outcome of the agreement with Iran? There will be \$100 billion in repatriated oil profits. Will China be complacent? Where is China on terrorism?”

Baucus: “They do see themselves as a target. They have also helped lead the Asia Pacific Alliance for FATF. China is cooperative, but more worried about Western China and inner-terrorism than outside threats.”

Pittenger: “How should we follow-up with cyber war while here?”

Baucus: “Constructive questions—we are making headway on cyber war. Five to six months ago they wouldn’t admit to commercial and government cyber threats, but now they do.”

Pittenger: Human rights issues: “Why does China continue to jail lawyers and their people? If you look at Christianity and people who practice faith, in most cases, these are people with morals and integrity; people who could be an integral part of their culture.”

Baucus: “To answer that simply, they are afraid of things getting out of hand.” (E.g. Protests, riots, etc.)

Baucus: “When dealing with the Chinese, I like to use the 3 P’s: Patient, Positive, and Persistent. At this point in time, it is now about deeds not words. The Chinese need to show us their intentions rather than telling us.”

Pittenger: “American banks are very appealing to them, and China is very interested in the U.S.’ best practices because they see the success.” How do we make the Chinese more accountable?”

Baucus: “They are not complacent, but have more important interests. For example, 80% of their time is focused on anti-corruption.”

Pittenger: “Will China be a conduit for Iran money?”

Baucus: “When sanctions are eased, they will have less reason to care. It will be interesting to see how they react to this. We all know how important trade and the relationship between Iran and China are. We will find out a lot about China as this agreement unfolds.”

Pittenger: “How would you deal with BRICS*?”

Embassy: “Not sure if they actually need a policy. The countries involved in BRICS are not threatening alone; therefore, they try to attach themselves to China for greater clout.”

Pittenger: “Do we let them run their course? Is it a threat to our influence?”

Embassy: “You let them do their best efforts. If they fail, they will be completely embarrassed and the Chinese hate being embarrassed.”

*BRICS is an acronym for the five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

Lu Kang

Director-General, Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Pittenger: “What are your thoughts on the Iran agreement? Does China see Islamic terrorism as a threat? Will they be helpful in tracking this money?”

Kang: “Negotiations are the only lasting solution. With this agreement, we have brought Iran back to the IAEA guidelines. As for Islamic terrorism, or any terrorism, China will stand out against it.”

Pittenger: “Regarding human rights and oppression of people with religious liberties, positive forces of Christians and people of faith within your economy and culture are battling corruption.”

Kang: “Mr. Pittenger, we would like to maintain our focus on the 1.3 billion people living in China. These questions you ask are regarding 30-50 million people. As you mentioned earlier, America has their faults as well.”

Pittenger: “I would like to send you more of these reports.”

Kang: “We still believe the people of China have

much more freedom than they ever have.”

Pittenger: “Bills to suppress people. We don’t have laws on expressing oneself.”

Kang: “We are doing things all other governments have already done.”

Pittenger: “What are your thoughts on China’s role with Taiwan?”

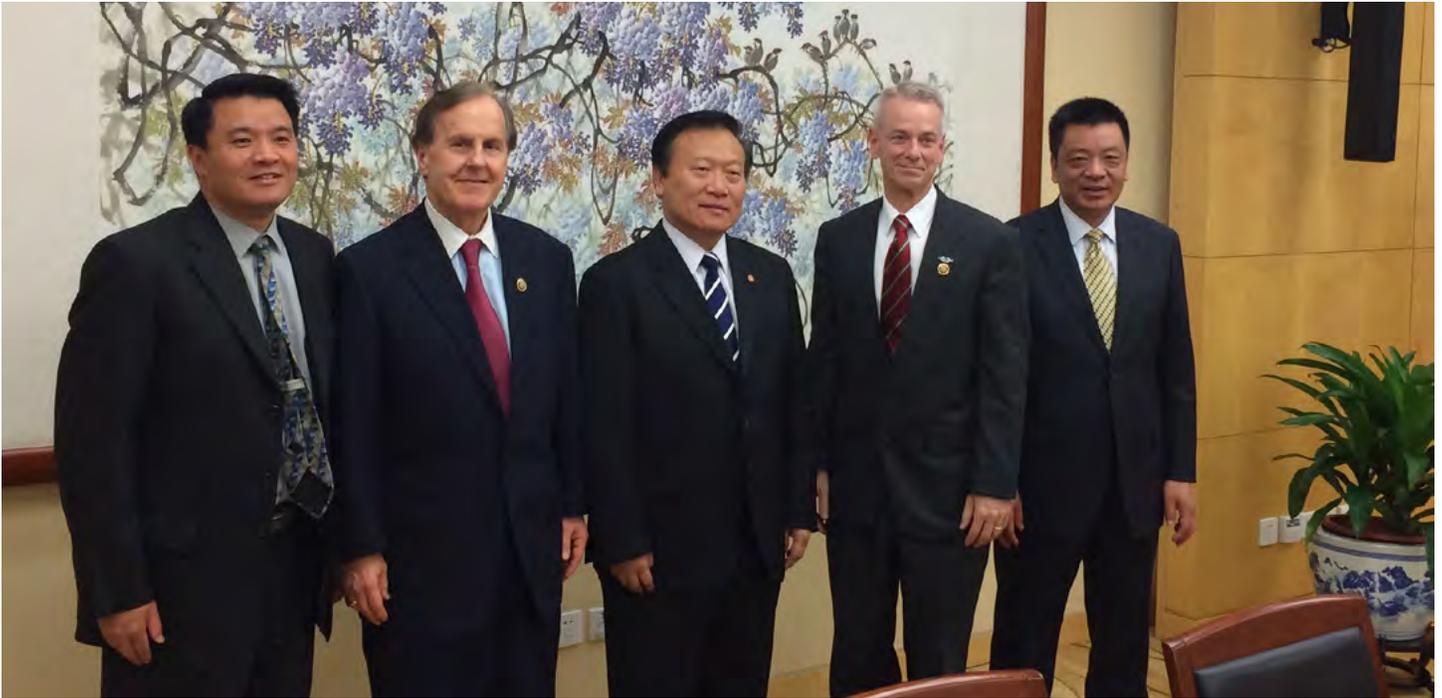
Kang: “We believe the issue should be handled by the people. We know that Taiwan will care more about the United States’ opinion, and we hope you will facilitate negotiations.”

Pittenger: “We have stepped back in the Middle East. What counsel would you give to the United States about our role?”

Kang: “Can you give me one success of conflict that has succeeded since the Cold War? We should look at the roots (local people) rather than imposing militaristic solutions.”

Vice Chairman Cao Weizhou

Standing Deputy Secretary General, Foreign Affairs Committee



Pittenger: “What do you think will be the basis of the cyber agreement signed in Washington? Do you think there will be compliance on both sides?”

Weizhou: “The United States has the strongest military and best economic situation in the world. This includes cyber-inventing most of the technologies regarding cyber in the world. China is a country who worships freedoms, and believes government should not impose on others if you do not wish to be imposed on yourself. There has been substantial progress between our two legislative bodies.”

Pittenger: “Chairman Cao, what are your thoughts on the Iran agreement and \$100 billion of repatriated oil profits?”

Weizhou: “Congressman, we do not conduct research on individual cases. We provide oversight.”

Pittenger: “As you view the world, where do you see it 10 years from now?”

Weizhou: “Time flies. I don’t believe there will be a large difference. The two challenges after WWII

and the Cold War were peace and development. Development will maintain a high priority due to the poverty levels in the world as of now.

- “A hotspot issue right now is the refugee crisis in Europe. Not only an issue of development, but an issue of stability.”
- “Our countries must respect and trust each other to provide good beneficial initiatives around the world.”
- “An example of this is the bi-lateral trade agreements. Our economies are very much intertwined. Both countries have said they will use their wealth and resources to promote good rather than cause conflicts.”
- “We can mutually benefit through bi-lateral trade.”
- “1.3 billion Chinese deserve the kind of lives Americans have and this is what China is moving toward.”

Chairman James Zimmerman

American Chamber of Commerce

The Chinese government wants to make sure religion is managed.”

- Chairman James Zimmerman



Pittenger: Iran & Banks: “Will China help in tracking the \$100 billion?”

Zimmerman: “China is in learning mode on how to be someone making a contribution without being part of the problem.”

- China could do a better job.
- Non-governmental organization (NGO) law in regards to Cyber: China’s intentions were to allow NGO’s to come in.
- The American Chamber is not part of the NGO law.

Pittenger: “People who have religious perspective tend to be good for culture and usually are people with integrity. How do we make this statement so it is meaningful to the Chinese?”

Zimmerman: “The Chinese government wants to make sure religion is managed.”

- Government has actually made investments to

state-sponsored churches.

- The Chinese government has a very hard time separating church and state.
- Chinese governments are trying to control NGOs internally.
- Over the last 30 years, there has been a relaxation in China.
- China is upset that the United States has not congratulated the Party for their accomplishments.

Pittenger: “How will rules-based monetary policy be in the future of China?”

Zimmerman: “It has been a learning curve for the Chinese. If they want to get what they desire, they will have to commit to a rules-based economy.”

- Debt interest in China is a little cheaper because of entering the stock market in 2008.

Minister Lu Wei

Office of Cyberspace Affairs, The Cyberspace Administration of China



Pittenger: “What responsibilities are there for the State? Do you think in three to five years from now we will have full compliance from the State?”

Wei: “Both China and the U.S. need to play a positive role in advancing the world’s development.”

- “China has many poverty stricken areas, which is still a major focus for the State.”

Pittenger: “I want to talk about China and cyberspace. Would you care to share your thoughts on this?”

Wei: “Well, the Internet was invented by the United States, which was a great invention by you all. No other country is as influential as the United States, but I don’t believe there is one country that is in full control of cyberspace.”

Pittenger: “Would you prosecute individuals who are not State sponsors (unaffiliated rogue hackers)?”

Wei: “Hackers are not allowed in China, so this is the difference between China and the United States.”

- “Yes, the U.S. media has said some hackers originate in China, but we do not believe this is true.”
- “OPM hack was developed years ago and the tool used was sold around the world.”
- “You can relate this to the mass shootings in the United States—the person who commits the crime didn’t make the gun.”

Pittenger: “You mentioned that you had countermeasures prepared in the event that the U.S. imposes sanctions. Can you be more specific?”

Wei: “That would be pouring oil on fire.” (i.e. No, he is not willing to give details.)

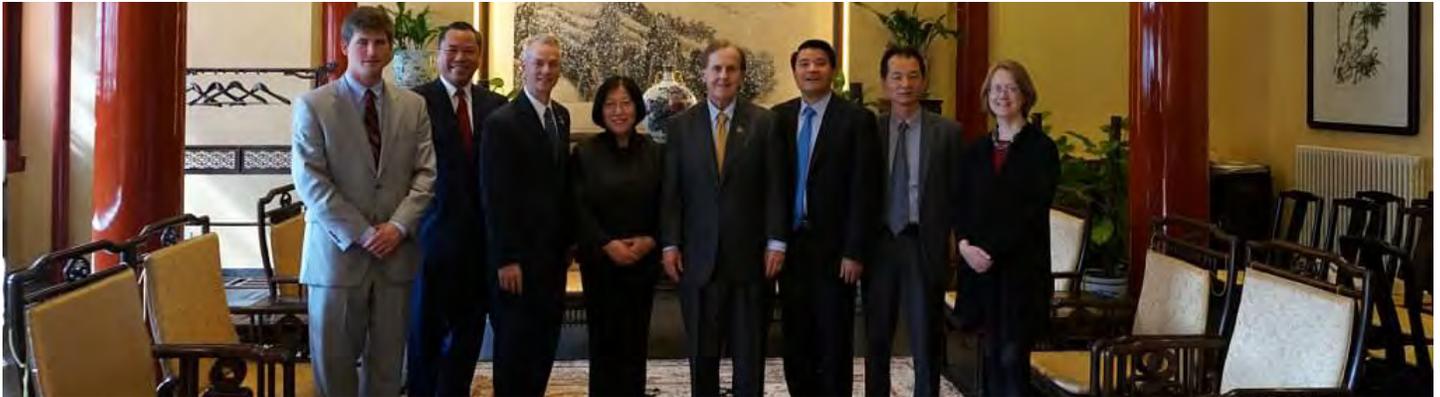
Pittenger: “There is backup data relating these hacks back to China.”

Wei: “I cannot give you 100% confidence that this attack was not from China. If you give me evidence, I will do a full investigation. I think our two governments should agree to not attack the other. The Internet was invented by the Americans. This was a major contribution by Americans to mankind. In cyber, no one can compete with the Americans. In another 20 years, China still won’t compare. In China, we have over 600 million Internet users. Over 700 million are still not users. Can you imagine the size of this market? China has 3,000 townships (Zhen) that are undergoing urbanization. How big is this market? The United States has no big market. Because you are capitalist, you are the most developed. You have everything. Your countryside is already urbanized. Why is God so unequal to the U.S. and China? Why does he give so much to the United States? But he sends blessing to us, too. You have technology; we have the market. This situation will continue for 50 to 100 years.”

- “I believe our cooperation will grow to be better and better. I think it would be wise for our two countries to join together.”
- “When you feel sleepy, I will give you the pillow.”
– Regarding the China and U.S. relationship.

Vice President Chen Naiqing

Chinese People's Institutent of Foreign Affairs



Informal discussion over lunch regarding the United States role with China. Key points included:

Pittenger: "Where do you see flaws with China's human rights?"

Naiqing: "We believe China has made incredible strides within our country to address human rights issues, and we believe many in China are proud of what we've done."

Pittenger: "I sit on the Speaker's Commission on China. We receive reports all the time of children that lose their fathers and families torn apart due to the lack of freedom of speech and religion. Can you explain these situations and why people are killed or

jailed because of a specific belief? And may I add that the United States is not without our own flaws due to our history of slavery, racism, pornography, violence, etc."

Naiqing: "Mr. Pittenger, we respect what the U.S. has done, and we understand every country has their faults. I would like to point out to you that you seem to be addressing only a few hundred people where these instances have taken place. When you look at China as a country with 1.3 billion people, we believe we have made great strides overall."

- The Iran deal was touched upon: Naiqing believed China would be cooperative.

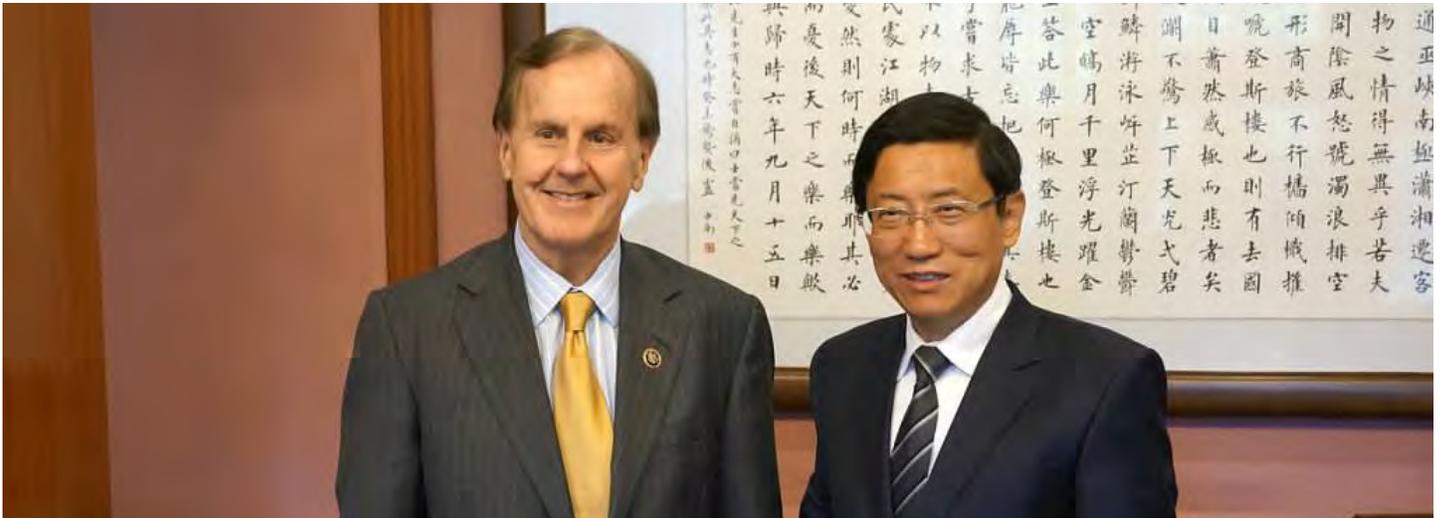
Da Wei

China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations

- Majority of the questions were from CICIR to Congressman Pittenger on political issues in the United States
- CICIR is a government-funded think tank
- 370 on staff; 180 are researchers

Pittenger: "How do you all view the Middle East collapse, the Iran Agreement, and China's financing capabilities?"

Wei: "China's economy is slowing down. We believe the North Korea issue is more important to China because it hits closer to home than the Middle East. Regarding the Iran deal, I tend to view the deal from another perspective. By lifting sanctions on Iran, maybe we can give the world a chance to see if the change can happen or not. I think this is kind of a chicken or the egg issue."



Vice Minister Jiang Jianyong

State Administration for Religious Affairs

Mr. Jianyong spoke at length for over 40 minutes speaking from a prepared speech; Pittenger interrupted:

Pittenger: “Speaker Boehner has a commission on human rights in China. The objective of the commission is to review freedoms on people who came seeking religious freedoms. We tend to hear countless reports in our monthly hearings of young girls whose fathers are imprisoned for expressing religious liberty—as many as 50 million are afraid to come out and live their faith in public. Can you explain this?”

Jianyong: “Religious activities must be conducted in registered religious sites. Home is okay for small-scale, but only up to a certain number of people; otherwise, they would interfere with neighbors’ lives.”

- There are no specific number of regulations regarding religion.

Russell: “If they want to buy a plot of land to build a

church, can they?”

Jianyong: “Land is owned by the state. They can have usership rights. Churches are owned by the church. No one has been arrested for their beliefs; it must have been for other reasons.”

Pittenger: “Historically, the Christian church has grown through persecution. I am a follower of Jesus. He is my Savior. The people who do follow Him are people of honesty and integrity. Most Christian people just want to live out their faith. You allowing these people to have greater freedom will be a benefit to your country, not a threat.”

Jianyong: “There are those who believe and those who don’t; their difference in religion is minor. They share an interest in country, principle of solidarity in political sense, and mutual respect in economic development.”

- “Of the five religions, Christianity now has more than 30 million followers. If we restricted Christianity, how could it develop so quickly?”

Vice Minister Zhu Guangyao

Ministry of Finance



Pittenger: Questions regarding the Iran deal, \$100 billion, etc.

Guangyao: “Since 9/11, we have expanded our anti-terrorism cooperation. We understand this is a crucial time for implementation and we hope the deal reached will be extremely well implemented. The Middle East is a very difficult situation for all countries, and I believe we need close cooperation in dealing with them.”

Pittenger: “Iran cannot absorb \$100 Billion in their economy. Our two nations can do a great deal to restrict flow.”

Guangyao: “Leave it to us to coordinate this issue. As for the financial side, we don’t see a problem at all in coordination on Iran.”

Pittenger: Question regarding the reform status in China.

Guangyao: “Since 1979, [China has had] roughly 9.7% growth every year. We must intensify the effort on environment and energy saving. You can see people have big complaints about dirty air. This is the reason why many Chinese support the Obama/Xi agreement on climate change.”

- “The most important thing at this point is clean water and clean air.”
- “Our goal for peoples per capita is \$10,000 per year. Right now, it is at \$7,200. While total GDP should be \$100 trillion.”
- “Our growth rate next year is expected to be 6.5%.”

- “Next year is our 13th five-year plan to 2020. Very crucial time to reach target set by Chinese government.”
- “Easy for China to roughly keep GDP up, but wanting to improve quality is the key issue.”
- “Xi and Obama agenda includes international finance architecture. The key being AIIB and new development banks. China wants U.S. support and sees it as a supplementary role to the existing system.”
- This time, both presidents agree to support and modernize the existing system and China supports a high standard.

Pittenger: “How do you view the Iran Deal? Specifically, with the lifting of sanctions and China’s role in tracking the \$100 billion through repatriated oil profits?”

Guangyao: “Middle East is a hostile area. We have no problem with coordination with the United States to ensure a responsible solution with following the money.”

Pittenger: “What is China’s Objective for internationalization of the RMB?”

Guangyao: “We had a frank discussion with U.S. Colleagues, Treasury, and the President and his team. We follow existing IMF criteria. Based on that, China agrees with the U.S. that IMF reforms need to be made, and we hope to finish the reform agenda soon.”



President Ken Jarrett

American Chamber of Commerce

- Bank of America is doing well in China.
- 3 branches in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou with enormous growth in the past five years.
- Economy has done great until this year.
- Clients are more cautious on the investment side. Demand is coming down on the loan perspective side, but clients are still investing in China.
- Risk is very good in China because of economic slowdown.
- Because of economic slowdown, the government has done a much better job now than in 2010 with the huge stimulus. This time, they are focused on certain industries: high tech, green, and innovative health care.

Pittenger: “Do you believe the \$4 trillion in Chinese government stimulus was effective?”

Jarrett: “Important, but overdone. Created a lot of overcapacity for the last two years. China has a lot of local government debt, which could be problematic in the next few years. They owe a lot of money this year, but have restructured many of these loans. In the next 12 months or so, these loans should be under control.”

- China has also cut the interest rate four times in the last 12 months while cutting deposit reserve 3 times.
- We are expecting another rate cut and deposit reserve cut this year, which is still a losing monetary policy.

Pittenger: “Are there restrictions on international banks coming in?”

Jarrett: “The foreign banks are growing more. Market share of foreign banks are less than 2%. Also, our own issues such as the financial crisis and regulations from the Fed and OCC put a lot of pressure on international expansion. The pressure is to not expand too fast, especially in emerging markets.”

Pittenger: “You have an exceptional security department (Bank of America), oversight and the transfer of money is very supportive of the U.S. Working with FinCen, do you see the Chinese government cooperating and working with financial

institutions in tracking funds? Do they have the capacity and the commitment?”

Jarrett: “Definitely improving. The Chinese government is actively going to each bank, Chinese and foreign, for inspections. A couple years ago, there was almost no focus on this. Online financing has also brought attention to those firms now.”

Pittenger: “My goal is to remove impediments so financial institutions can share data. Does the Chinese government have capacity for data sharing? Do they want to?”

Jarrett: “There is an effort from various agencies. The government tries to work with banks; however, it is usually a one way street. They want something, they come get it from us—we get very little data from the government.”

Pittenger: “Are there any obstacles the U.S. is creating to deter Chinese investment?”

Jarrett: “The biggest challenge is adapting their organizations to investing in a foreign company. The bidding process is a challenge for Chinese companies. It’s just not the way they are used to doing business, whether it be internal structure, or art of negotiations.”

Pittenger: “Regarding the financial regulations, how has the Dodd-Frank regulatory environment affected you?”

Jarrett: “For example, MetLife is a 50/50 joint venture. We have increased our lobbying to increase our percentage, but have been unsuccessful. There is no signal of change in the near future. For us, it usually takes 12 to 18 months to get one license. Chinese firms apply for three licenses at a time and receive them quickly.”

Cyber Issues:

- China has proposed a mandate of use for certain technology in the banking industry, but would have negative implications for foreign players. There has been a lot of push back because of this.
- Xi said publicly, no cyber espionage for commercial gain.
- Important step, but how can you monitor and enforce this?



Gong Guijun

Deputy Director General of Xi'an Municipal Foreign Affairs

Informal Dinner in Xi'an. Key points included:

Pittenger: "I would like to get your opinion on human rights in China; specifically, the one child per family law. Your thoughts on this are much appreciated."

Guijun: "Mr. Pittenger, let me tell you a story about why this law makes sense to the Chinese people. Prior to this law, China had many issues where the poorest of the poor and uneducated continued to have children. One family had as many as five children, none of whom were cared for the way they deserved. The government noticed this trend and implemented this law. The Chinese government believes each child should have a fair chance, and permitting families one child allows for the attention to be tightly focused."

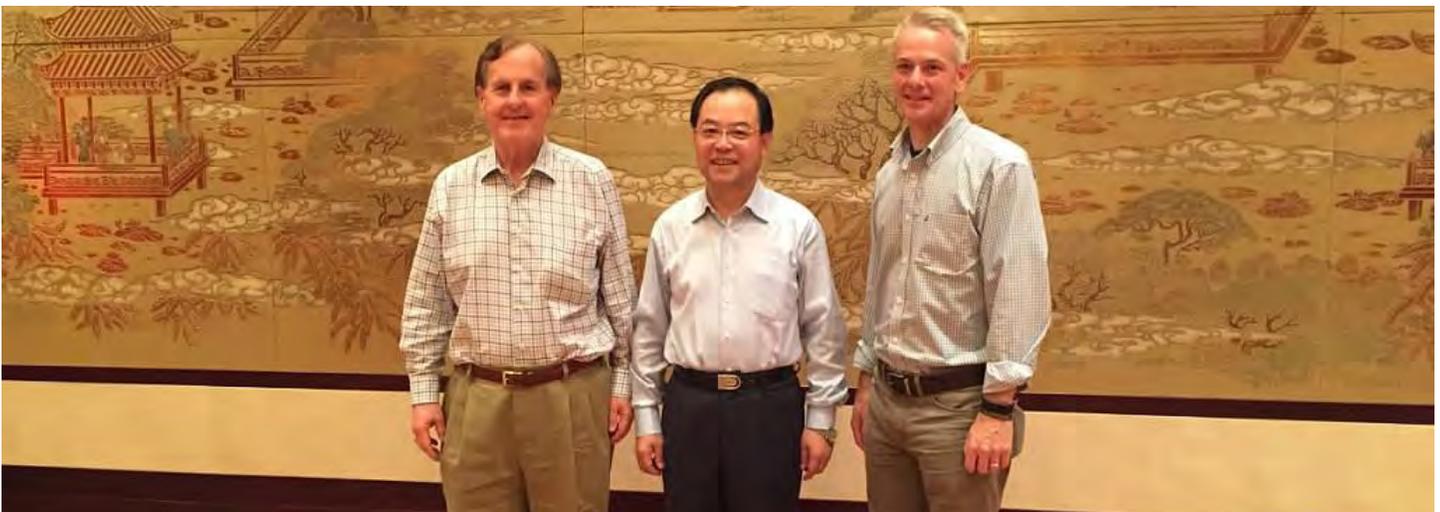
(America believes family should have choices and make those decisions, because children should not

be considered works of the state. After the trip, China changed the law to allow two children per family.)

Pittenger: "Your thoughts on America?"

Guijun: "Obviously America is a remarkable place. My son actually lives in Raleigh— not far from your district. I do think the violence and gun rights have had a major effect on society. For example, in China, if you need something from your neighbor at midnight you can go knock on the door and rest assured you will not be shot. With the laws in America, you run a risk of being shot if you were to knock on a door at midnight."

Pittenger: "Well, I don't believe most Americans see it this way. We do believe in the 2nd Amendment, which is something that cannot be taken away by the government."



Shenzhen Christian Church



- Founded in 1898 as a Rhenish church, the SCC used to be located in Luohu.
- Number of attendees to the Sunday service topping 3,500.
- In 1998, the government granted a 4,400-sq.m land (including the green space) to the SCC to build a new church building on the foot of Huaguo Mountain in Meilin. The church broke ground on July 3, 1999, was built in Aug. 2000, and put into use on Dec. 9, 2001. 90% of the RMB's 30-million construction spending was contributed by believers in the city.
- It has seven ministers, 15 employees, and some 1,000 lay leaders.
- Congressman Pittenger spoke in two meetings sharing his Christian faith.



Mayor Xu Qin

Mayor of Shenzhen

- Advancing to be an international city obtaining friendship city relations with over 70 cities, including five in the U.S.: LA, Houston, Atlanta, Dallas, and Seattle.
- Carries out dynamic exchanges, cooperation, investments, and trade with the United States.
- Shenzhen is advocating construction of a major bay area economy covering Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao. They would like to learn from the San Francisco Bay and New York Bay area economies.

Pittenger: “President Xi’s visit could be a turning point for our relationship. Verbal commitments

were made that we will understand better in time, and building trust in fulfilling verbal commitments could enable future partnerships. I would make one recommendation: we would welcome a relationship with Shenzhen in Charlotte, as we are both very important to our nation’s financial industries.”

Xu Qin: “I’d be delighted to establish friendship or a sister city relationship with Charlotte. We understand Charlotte is the second largest financial sector in the country. We would like for the Mayor of Charlotte to visit Shenzhen at an appropriate time. I also know that North Carolina is a high tech state, so I believe we have a lot to discuss in these fields.”



CHINA SUMMIT 2015

SHENZHEN, CHINA 18-20 OCTOBER 2015



World Presidents' Organization (WPO) Speech

Speech to over 75 presidents and CEOs from around the world.

Pittenger's key points:

- "I think the largest problem in Washington is the argument of two world views."
- "Regardless of the issue, there are some out there who believe in centralized planning—where the government knows best and the bigger the government the better. Then, there are some, such as myself, who believe in markets. I believe the people know best and the markets work when the government stays out of it."
- "You look at this U.S. Administration and what they have done to businesses in regards to regulation... Whether it is the Affordable Care

Act, Dodd-Frank, or EPA overreach, government overreach has put us at 2.3% economic growth.

- "As a member of the Financial Services Committee, I see what the Dodd-Frank act has done firsthand. There are over 400 new regulations, which have destroyed financial growth and access to capital. Most banks and financial firms are spending more money on compliance than development and loan officers."
- "The only thing Dodd-Frank has been good for is regulatory lawyers."
- "No one is saying regulation is not needed; it is. But Dodd-Frank went way too far and has affected community and regional banks the most."

Pittenger mentioned his experience on the bank board and how they knew, without government interference, the best practices regarding loans.

pittenger.house.gov



MIDDLE EAST REPORT

Congressional Delegation Trip
November 19 - 25, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Middle East is ablaze with violence and Islamic extremism and more dangerous today than any time in recent memory. Recently, I participated in a Congressional delegation led by Congressman Rob Wittman to Egypt, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia to have a discussion with top officials on defeating ISIS and the increased involvement of Russian and Iranian influence in Middle Eastern affairs. This trip included meetings with the following top officials:

- President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of Egypt
- Colonel General Sedki Sobhi, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Egypt
- Lieutenant General Mahmoud Hegazy, Egyptian Chief of Staff
- President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan
- CEO Abdullah Abdullah, Afghanistan
- U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan P. Michael McKinley
- Afghan and NATO Military Leaders
- General Campbell, Commander, Resolute Support and United States Forces-Afghanistan
- Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Crown Prince, Second Deputy Premier, and Minister of Defense General of Saudi Arabia
- Abdulrahman bin Saleh Al Banyan, Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Arabian Armed Forces
- Prince Miteb bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of the Saudi Arabian National Guard
- Dr. Khaled Al Jindan, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs for Bilateral Relations
- Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs



Congressman Pittenger serves as Chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, Vice Chairman of the Financial Services Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing, Member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and is also a member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Enclosed is a summary of meetings held with top officials from Egypt, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and NATO officials. The United States must have a clear plan for our allies and partners in the region to defeat Islamic terrorists.

Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress
North Carolina's 9th District

EGYPT



President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
President of Egypt

We met with:

- President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Colonel General Sedki Sobhi, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces
- Lieutenant General Mahmoud Hegazy, Chief of Staff

The primary topics discussed were current security issues and stability of the government.

Synopsis: Ambassador Beecroft reviewed the series of events and circumstances that brought President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to power. Millions of protesters took to the streets, rejecting former President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood and demanding an improved economy and higher standard of living. Ambassador Beecroft also noted that if President el-Sisi does not succeed, Egypt will likely elect another General because the army is the only stable force in the country and generally believed to have the people's best interest in mind.

My questions dealt with the current lack of commitment Egypt has from the United States due to President Obama's misguided view of the revolution by the people that brought President el-Sisi to power. Meanwhile, Russia has demonstrated a high level of engagement, building a nuclear power plant in Egypt for electricity (on the front page of the paper while we were there). The current instability in Egypt and Russian influence is directly related to the U.S. being unresponsive to Egypt's request for assistance in defeating the Muslim Brotherhood and other terrorist groups. President el-Sisi emphasized the reality of significant threats from many terrorist groups, not just ISIS, including al-Qaeda, al-Nusra, Boko Haram, Hamas, Hezbollah and others, and warned us not to take our eyes off of them.

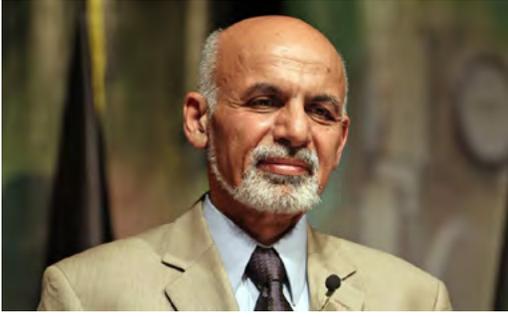
I also discussed our meeting two years ago when he was a General. Then-General el-Sisi and President Mansour laid out their vision for the future: within five

months they would have a Constitution; in six more months elect a President; and in twelve more months have Parliamentary elections. Not only did they accomplish what they promised, but President el-Sisi also stated to us that under the new government, the Presidency would not be a regime, but be limited to two terms.

Expressing my support, I told President el-Sisi he has earned the respect of the world and certainly the assistance of the U.S. to defeat terrorism. Our non-response to him was ill-advised and did not recognize the will of the people to be rid of President Morsi, who was following the interests of the Muslim Brotherhood. When I expressed gratitude for the respect and support he has given religious minorities, particularly Coptic Christians, he emphasized that there were no minorities in Egypt, as all are Egyptians and all are equal. He further responded to us that no religious sect that advocates violence and jihad is a true religion.

President el-Sisi and I discussed terrorism financing, the need to track money through the financial systems, and the need for sophisticated technology to follow the flow of money through the financial system as they work with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and our Treasury department. We also discussed the Interpol Stolen and Lost Travel Document database, an international database which houses information on stolen passports. He understood the importance, but the financial cost is high. This should continue to be an issue we press with Egypt and other countries (only ten countries are in compliance) as the downing of the Malaysian flight and recent passports confiscated in Honduras confirm the vulnerability of our security procedures in dealing with stolen passports. Our meeting ended with el-Sisi emphasizing that he and his country would always love and respect America for all we have done for them. "Though you may reject me, I will never reject you" was his affirming commitment to our relationship.

AFGHANISTAN



President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani
President of Afghanistan

We met with:

- President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, CEO Abdullah Abdullah
- Ambassador P. Michael McKinley
- Afghan and NATO Military officials
- General Campbell, Commander, Resolute Support and United States Forces-Afghanistan

Our discussions centered on U.S. efforts to defeat Taliban and other embedded terrorists groups.

Synopsis: The scope of our military mission in Afghanistan is to train, assist, and advise. There has been some progress in building management and budgeting structures in the military, with training limited to Corp leaders and not field operations. We have a very strong intelligence presence in Kabul, which is also the NATO headquarters. While the Taliban is the major terrorist organization in the country, ISIS and other terrorist groups continue to increase their presence.

Iran does not want ISIS to expand into Afghanistan, and therefore is supporting the Taliban. General Campbell stated that terrorists with money lead to deadly outcomes. At each meeting, including with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, I raised the issues of poppy cultivation, as it is a \$3 billion industry in Afghanistan generating \$100-\$200 million annual revenue for the Taliban. If Afghanistan is ever to defeat the Taliban it must find a way to successfully cut off their funding from poppy production. The nexus between criminals and terrorists is growing stronger, with drug trafficking as a major joint effort along with mining.

My emphasis in each meeting was for Afghanistan to commit to infrastructure and the rule of law, both of which would encourage extraction of scarce minerals and oil and gas exploration. Referring to the U.S.' shale boom, I pointed out how new technologies have allowed us to tap in to previously unknown oil and gas reserves, creating thousands of jobs and generating millions in revenue to support the economy. Our

current reserves exceed that of Saudi Arabia.

Afghanistan has significant known resources and additional resources that could be identified.

The vision is to extract resources in Afghanistan and provide subsidies to poppy farmers so they can grow other agricultural products, like corn, etc. While there are challenges, as poppy production has become very ingrained into their society, it seems very clear, as I told several U.S. Generals, that we could be sitting around the same table 20 years from now discussing how we are going to defeat the Taliban because of their major cash infusion from heroin production and sales.

Any real plan to defeat the Taliban must include eradication of poppy or we are wasting our time. If we don't cut off the Taliban's funding there is no way to achieve the desired outcome, and certainly not in the military's current projected three year time frame. Elimination of poppy production is also a humanitarian cause. Russia is severely impacted by heroin addiction from Taliban poppy, as well as Iran, which has little regard for human life.

President Ghani listened attentively and responded affirmatively while outlining the obstacles in the way, including security for mineral extraction and massive infrastructure requirements. Gas reserves have already been found in the coastal region with unknown potential throughout the country. These requirements should all be factors in a business plan for private industry to partner with them, but they must establish the rule of law to protect private investment.

One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to share two meals with soldiers from North Carolina in Bagra and Kandahar. They were all very special young men who love their job, even under very trying conditions. While they are fed well, there are two soldiers in a small very Spartan unit, about 6 feet by 15 feet and no bathroom. They have a community bathroom. Nonetheless, they were all smiles. You had to love and respect them for their courage and dedication.

SAUDI ARABIA

We met with:

- Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Crown Prince, Second Deputy Premier, and Minister of Defense General
- Abdulrahman bin Saleh Al Banyan, Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces
- Prince Miteb bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of the National Guard
- Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Our discussions centered around terrorism and growing Iranian and Russian influence in the region.

Synopsis: Saudi Arabia has been a strong ally of the U.S., in spite of their increase of oil production to drive oil prices down to \$40 per barrel, which has killed off hundreds of U.S. oil producers. They remain troubled by the lack of American leadership on the world stage, which is creating a void that is

being filled by jihadists. In their words, the world understands the need for clear, focused leadership from the United States, which they would follow. The Saudis begged for this kind of leadership and pledge that they would always follow and support America.

My questions related to the Saudi's commitment to prosecute parties in their country who were supporting terrorists. The U.S. has received reports of Saudi's financing terrorists as donors or facilitators through trade-based money laundering, drugs, oil, antiquities and other means. We also discussed stolen passport verification through Interpol. They pledged their full support on the terrorism financing issues and the passports, but we must follow up with the Saudi Ambassador in the U.S. and with U.S. Ambassador Westphal, who was at all of our meetings and offered full support of the Embassy.



Congressman Robert Pittenger and other members of the Congressional delegation and members of the U.S. military.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



Congressman Pittenger in the cockpit of an Air Force C-17 during his Congressional visit to Egypt, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia.



Congressman Pittenger at the headquarters for NATO's Operation Resolute Support in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Chinook CH-47 which transported Congressman Pittenger and his House colleagues to meetings around Afghanistan.



U.S. Air Force C-17 used to transport the Congressional delegation on their Middle East trip.



Congressman Robert Pittenger aboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 in Cairo.



Congressman Pittenger was honored to meet troops from North Carolina, currently defending our freedom while stationed at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

*Additional pictures from this trip are available at:
<https://goo.gl/photos/F2eL1bxc2FPWkHA38>*

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