

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 9:40 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Revised Op-Ed
Attachments: Missile Defense op-ed -- with DS edits.docx

See below - are you fine with this revised draft?

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwerin, Dan B (PACE) [mailto:SchwerinDB2@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 9:15 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Muscatine, Lissa; Crowley, Philip J; Reines, Philippe I; Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Rose, Frank A
Subject: Revised Op-Ed

PJ ask me to pass along this revised draft of the missile defense op-ed. Its attached and pasted below for your review.
Thanks
Dan

A New Approach for Missile Defense

By Hillary Clinton

Iran's development of short- and medium-range ballistic missiles poses a clear and growing threat to the security of our European allies and our own forces stationed in the region. That is why President Obama announced yesterday that the United States is ready to deploy missile defenses in Europe specifically geared toward stopping these missiles. This is a threat we cannot ignore.

Previous missile defense efforts have focused on protecting against intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, but our intelligence now shows that the threat from these long-range weapons has not progressed as quickly as had been feared. In contrast, evidence indicates that Iran is developing short- and medium- range missiles that will eventually enable it to target most of Europe, the Caucasus and the Middle East, including U.S. and NATO forces.

We deeply appreciate the willingness of the Czech and Polish Governments to host the original missile defense architecture on their soil, and the decision to deploy other systems to better meet this growing threat came as a result of a long and careful review of our policies, capabilities, and requirements. This decision does not alter the unshakeable commitment of the United States to the security of these vital NATO allies. Rather, it reflects our determination to jointly meet the threats that endanger us all.

The old focus on long-range missile defense systems left significant gaps in our ability to defend against shorter-range threats, exposing our allies and our forces stationed in Europe. Many experts have also expressed concerns about the testing record and effectiveness of the long-range interceptors that were to be deployed in Poland.

Our new approach is different in a number of ways.

First, we will use well-tested missile defense systems, such as the Standard Missile-3, against the current threats. And unlike the old fixed, silo-based interceptors, they will be mobile and able to shift as threats evolve.

Second, while previous efforts sought to by-pass NATO in favor of bilateral agreements, the Obama Administration plans to make coordination with NATO a central element of our approach. By working with our allies to build a workable and cost-effective missile defense system in Europe, we can better contribute to the protection of our NATO allies and increase regional stability.

For 60 years, the NATO alliance has been a force for peace, prosperity and security in Europe and around the world because of its commitment to collective security: an attack on one ally is an attack on all. An attack on London or Warsaw is an attack on New York or Washington. NATO demonstrated this commitment after the September 11 terrorist attacks, when for the first time, the alliance invoked Article V and NATO sent assets to the United States to help protect us from additional terrorist attacks.

Unfortunately, the old long-range defense plan created the impression of "two-tiers" of security within the alliance by focusing only on theoretical threats that could one day affect the mainland United States, while leaving our European allies vulnerable to very real short- and medium-range missiles.

Our new plan corrects this imbalance. We will continue to monitor and counter longer-term threats, but we will work with our allies to protect all NATO territory. We will focus on the most imminent threat, while also developing the capacity to adjust quickly if the threat evolves.

Finally, we will engage with Russia as part of our new approach. Russia is also vulnerable to Iran's short- and medium-range missiles and we will seek to cooperate to address this common threat. I am pleased that the Russians agreed at the Moscow Summit to a joint threat assessment of the ballistic missile challenges of the 21st century, including from Iran. This is a positive first step and I look forward to future progress.

In short, this new missile defense plan is more realistic about the threats we face, more reliable in the tools we will use, and more inclusive of the allies we are pledged to protect.

While we pursue this new path, we will also redouble our diplomatic efforts to engage Iran and focus its leaders on a clear choice: whether to join the international community as a responsible member or to continue down a path to further isolation.

But the security of our allies and our forces cannot wait. That is why we are moving ahead with a new approach for missile defense.

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