



COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION AND TERRORISM

For Immediate Release

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WMD Panel to Consult with Anti-Terrorism, Counter-Proliferation Experts in Russia *Commissioners Cancel Pakistan Trip After Bombing in Islamabad*

WASHINGTON, September 22, 2008 – A congressionally-appointed commission studying ways to prevent terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction arrived in Moscow for meetings with counterterrorism and counter-proliferation experts. The group will also tour several facilities, including those that train the forces that guard Russia's nuclear facilities.

Members of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism will visit sites including the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research and the Security Assessment and Training Center.

Former Sen. Bob Graham, the Commission chairman, said the trip underscores the importance of close cooperation with Russia and other countries in preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

"We cannot provide meaningful recommendations to the next Administration and Congress without examining what international counterterrorism and counter-proliferation experts, intelligence officials and international organizations are doing to stem proliferation and terrorism," Graham said. "Russia and the United States have the largest stockpiles of nuclear weapons and materials. Russia's cooperation is critical to our joint efforts to protect the world from nuclear attack."

"The terrible tragedy at the Islamabad Marriott is yet another reminder of the all-too-constant threat of terrorism," Graham said.

Commissioners were enroute to Islamabad on Saturday for meetings there before traveling to Moscow but cancelled the Pakistan trip after the bombing on the recommendation of the U.S. embassy.

The trip comes nine days after the Commission held its first public hearing in New York where it heard testimony on the threat posed by WMD to the United States. The nine-member Commission will hold a second public hearing in Washington Oct. 1 that will focus on what the federal government can do to prevent the spread of WMD and terrorism.

Established by House Resolution 1 to implement a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission, the WMD Commission is charged with assessing current activities, initiatives, and programs of the United States to prevent weapons of mass destruction proliferation and terrorism. The Commission plans to issue its final report and recommendations in November.

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