



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SEP 5 2013

Dear Mr. Duncan:

Thank you for your letter of August 1 regarding the recent Department of State report on the Iranian presence in the Western Hemisphere.

On June 26, as required by law, the Department sent a report to Congress that included an assessment of Iranian presence in Latin America. On July 25, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta S. Jacobson and a colleague from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) provided a classified briefing for interested members and staff of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the full classified version of the report. We were pleased that you and 11 of your colleagues, including WHA Sub-Committee Chairman Salmon and NEA Sub-Committee Chairman Ros-Lehtinen, were able to attend. We regret that the session was cut short by votes on the House floor; however, Assistant Secretary Jacobson and her ODNI colleague remained with members of House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) staff until all of their questions were answered.

As we stated in the unclassified summary of our policy recommendations and in the classified briefing, Iran's involvement in the Western Hemisphere is a matter for concern, and the Administration continues to monitor this involvement. Iran has serially defied the will of the international community and is a State Sponsor of Terrorism. We are fully aware of the negative implications that Iran's presence in the hemisphere could have for our security and economic interests and that of our neighbors.

The final classified report you received reflects the view of the entire Administration. Our characterization of the Iranian threat in the Western Hemisphere is shared by all relevant agencies within the executive branch, including the Department of Defense and intelligence agencies. In preparing this report, we consulted and cleared the final classified report with the Departments of Defense, Justice, Homeland Security, and Treasury, along with ODNI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the National Security Staff, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative. The report is based on and consistent in every respect with a comprehensive, 40-page, all agency, consensus intelligence

The Honorable  
Jeff Duncan,  
House of Representatives.

assessment that systematically reviewed the available intelligence concerning Iran's aspirations and activities in the Western Hemisphere. We sought to incorporate the most current information available to the intelligence community, as well as diplomatic and open source information regarding Iran's activities in the hemisphere. Given classification issues, certain details could not be included the Department of State's classified and unclassified reports, but a fuller picture was included in the intelligence assessment (Annex B in the State Department report) and discussed with you during the classified briefing

Additionally, we consulted extensively with regional and partner governments, in Washington and through our embassies, to obtain information contained in the report.

We assure you that we are constantly reviewing information about Iranian presence in the Western Hemisphere to ensure we have the most up-to-date and accurate picture, including classified information from our defense, intelligence, and law enforcement colleagues. In addition, we regularly speak privately with experts on the subject. Argentine Prosecutor Nisman's report was unfortunately released only a few days before our report was due to Congress, so we were unable to review and assess his conclusions for possible inclusion or reference in our official report. However, since then we conducted an assessment with our intelligence community colleagues of the report and discussed it with Mr. Nisman.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Gibbons  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs