

**Statement By Senator Tom Daschle**  
**Democratic Policy Committee Hearing On Intelligence Leaks**  
**October 24, 2003**

Earlier this year, someone publicly and willfully disclosed one of this nation's most protected and valuable national security secrets – the identity of an intelligence operative.

With this act, the person or persons responsible not only placed at risk the personal safety of an individual. They also placed at risk the security of every American.

The importance of intelligence agents to our national security at this point in our history cannot be overstated. America and our troops are currently engaged in a war in Iraq and waging a war on terrorism and terrorists around the world.

Regarding the critical role human intelligence plays in our larger effort against terror, President Bush recently said, "The last several months have shown there is no substitute for good intelligence officers, people on the ground. These are the people who find the targets, follow our enemies, and help us disrupt their evil plans."

Just as there is unanimity on the importance of human intelligence, Democrats and Republicans agree that publicly disclosing the identities of these assets causes great harm. According to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, "Leaks put people's lives at risk. And I think that the people in any branch of government have the obligation to manage their mouths in a way that does not put people's lives at risk. Folks that leak and put people's lives at risk ought to be in jail."

Former President George H.W. Bush put it even more succinctly, "I have nothing but contempt and anger for those who betray the trust by exposing the names of our sources. They are, in my view, the most insidious of traitors."

We are fortunate to have with us today people who have collectively served their country in our intelligence community for several decades. We are joined today by:

- \*Jim Marcinkowski, a former CIA case officer
- \*Larry Johnson, a former CIA analyst
- \*Vince Cannistraro, a former senior CIA officer

These three men are here today because they believe that having the opportunity to serve our nation as intelligence officers was a great honor. Through their testimony today, we will have a better understanding of the importance of human intelligence assets and the damage that results when their identities are disclosed.

As we work to examine the full ramifications of this leak on individual intelligence agents, our intelligence community, and our national security, their expertise will help us come up with ways to prevent future threats of this nature.

These men come here today not as Democrats or Republicans but as Americans. Their presence demonstrates that their commitment to serve this great nation did not end when they left public service.