

**Statement By Senator Frank R. Lautenberg**  
**Democratic Policy Committee Hearing On Intelligence Leaks**  
**October 24, 2003**

I would like to thank the Democratic leader Senator Daschle and the DPC for holding this important hearing.

There is much yet to be discussed regarding the reprehensible intelligence leak involving the White House staff. I believe that we need to continue our vigilance, ensuring that the current investigation is conducted thoroughly and expeditiously. I have called numerous times for a special counsel, given what I believe to be a lack of neutrality of the current investigators – the Department of Justice.

Today, however, we are here to discuss another troubling ramification of this security breach: what will happen to our intelligence apparatus in the wake of this awful incident?

On the micro level, there are countless, unnamed individuals who have might have been harmed by the disclosure of Valerie Plame's name, including American and foreign operatives.

On the macro level, I am concerned that this incident will deter people interested in joining the CIA and FBI.

Will be there an overall decline in the morale of our intelligence personnel?

I hope our distinguished witnesses will answer these questions. After all, intelligence agents, operatives and analysts are just as much battling on the front line in the war on terrorism as are our soldiers in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

It is vital that our intelligence capabilities remain expansive and that talented individuals continue to be attracted to this critical field.

Again, I must restate my immense shock and anger about the treacherous behavior of someone in the White House. This intimidation of our CIA agency is appalling, and we need to stop this Administration from continuing its overall policy of retaliation.

I look forward to our very distinguished panel's testimonies.