

Statement By Senator Carl Levin
Democratic Policy Committee Hearing On Intelligence Leaks
October 24, 2003

It's very important that Americans hear the testimony of today's witnesses. The outing of a CIA undercover agent is a vicious and a premeditated act. It not only endangers the individual's life and career, it damages our nation's efforts to protect Americans as a whole.

And among the many questions which I know our witnesses will address will be the very broad underlying question of to what extent does the outing of an agent hinder the ability of the CIA to recruit foreign assets to address threats to this nation in the future.

Will people being asked abroad to give us information be less likely to give us that information secretly if they think that the person to whom they're giving that information may be publicly identified at a later time?

That is a significant security threat to this nation, as well as, obviously, a personal threat to the individual involved. Thank you.