



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

February 18, 2021

Ms. Melissa Smislova
Acting Undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Acting Undersecretary Smislova:

The deadly domestic terror attack on the U.S. Capitol was an attack on our very democracy, and it is vital that we address any intelligence or information sharing failures that limited our Nation's ability to prevent the deadly siege. We write to better understand the role of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) in facilitating the sharing of intelligence related to potential threats on January 6, 2021.

Part of I&A's mission is to share threat-related information among partners at all levels of government and with the private sector. In October 2020, DHS warned about the heightened potential for violence particularly toward government officials.¹ Yet, according to a recent *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) article, on January 5, I&A sent a national summary to law enforcement across the country stating there was "Nothing significant to report," in the lead-up to the attack.²

We are concerned about these inconsistencies, which may have prevented adequate preparation by the Federal government in advance of the Capitol siege. As such, we respectfully request that you provide the Committee with the requested documents and answers to the following questions by March 4, 2021:

- A copy of the January 5, 2021 national summary referenced in the abovementioned WSJ article, that allegedly included the assessment that there was "nothing significant to report." Additionally, please describe how I&A arrived at this assessment and provide an accounting of how, when, and to whom this summary was disseminated.
- Any correspondence between I&A and its partners regarding potential threats and or any preparations in advance of the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

¹ Department of Homeland Security, *Homeland Threat Assessment*, Oct. 2020, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020_10_06_homeland-threat-assessment.pdf.

² *Capitol Riot Warnings Weren't Acted on as System Failed*, Wall Street Journal, Feb. 8, 2021, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/capitol-riot-warnings-werent-acted-on-as-system-failed-11612787596>.

- Please describe any intelligence that was disseminated or received by I&A in advance of the Capitol siege.
- The WSJ article also references a January 4 Fusion Center Network call discussing possible threat information leading up to the events on January 6, 2021.³ Was I&A invited to or a participant in that call? If so, what information was shared?
- Several press reports indicate that the FBI Field Office in Norfolk produced an intelligence report about local individuals planning potential violence and sharing maps of the U.S. Capitol.⁴ Was that report shared with I&A?
- What is the threshold for DHS and its partners to issue a Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB)? Why was that threshold not met in advance of the violence on January 6, 2021?
- Press reporting indicated that the U.S. Capitol Police produced an intelligence summary indicating the potential for violence on January 6, 2021.⁵ Was that product shared with I&A?
- Considering that previous certifications of Presidential elections have not been designated as National Special Security Events (NSSE), what is the threshold to declare an event an NSSE and why was one not declared for the Joint Session of Congress on January 6, 2021?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



Elissa Slotkin
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Intelligence and
Counterterrorism

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *FBI report warned of 'war' at Capitol, contradicting claims there was no indication of looming violence*, Washington Post, Jan. 12, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/capitol-riot-fbi-intelligence/2021/01/12/30d12748-546b-11eb-a817-e5e7f8a406d6_story.html.

⁵ *Capitol Police intelligence report warned three days before attack that 'Congress itself' could be targeted*, Washington Post, Jan. 15, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/capitol-police-intelligence-warning/2021/01/15/c8b50744-5742-11eb-a08b-f1381ef3d207_story.html.