



Subject: RE: Transcript from SSCI World Wide Threat Open Hearing

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ROCKEFELLER: General, I don't want to interrupt, but I only have a little short time left. It was the vice president that I was quoting, not myself. This is to Director Mueller. And good morning to you, sir. A January 17 New York Times article quotes former and current FBI officials as saying that the bureau was inundated with leads from the NSA domestic surveillance program that required hundreds of investigators to check out thousands of tips a month.

According to officials quoted in the article, the information from the NSA program had uncovered no active Al Qaida networks inside the United States planning attacks.

Now, the president, General Hayden and others have been very clear in their public statements that the NSA program collects information only against known Al Qaida terrorists and their associates.

Without getting into classified specifics, can you confirm to the committee that the investigative leads forwarded by the NSA to the FBI related only to known Al Qaida terrorists and their associates?

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MUELLER: Let me answer that part of the question I feel I can answer, **Senator**. And that relates to leads that come from the NSA.

We get a number of leads from the NSA from a number of programs, including the program that's under discussion today.

MUELLER: And I can say that leads from that program have been valuable in identifying would-be terrorists in the United States, individuals who were providing material support to terrorists.

But we get any number of leads. Most leads that we get, whether it be from NSA or overseas, from the CIA, ultimately turn out not to be valid or worthwhile. But in our view, any lead from any source, any legitimate source, is a lead that has to be pursued, and we pursue each one and every one of them.

