

Date: Sat, 12 Dec 2009 21:40:26 -0500

To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy of Sciences Study on Social & Behavioral Science and Improving Intelligence for National Security" <baruch@cmu.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

**Subject: Rarer events and New DNI/NIC Forecasting Methods:  
Obama, 9/11, and the global financial crisis**

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Members of the Fischhoff Commission:

I mentioned, in an earlier message, Ithiel de Sola Pool's remark that, with three possibilities  $A=0.3$ ,  $B=0.3$ , and  $C=0.4$  you would make two rational predictions - that  $C$  is the most likely outcome; and that you will be wrong, as the likelihood is 0.6 that the future will be either  $A$  or  $B$ .

Re examples of less likely events that will change the future: I just wanted to mention that nobody predicted 9/11, or a deep global financial crisis, or (even two years ago) the election of Barack Obama. . . .

I will be interested to read the Commission's ideas re implications for DNI forecasting methods.

Lloyd E.

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