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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: Request: The Pentagon Papers of the Bush Administration?

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

Would the National Academy of Sciences, pursuant to fulfilling your Study Group's advisory tasks to the government and the American people, ask Admiral Blair to assemble and release the equivalent of The Pentagon Papers of the Bush Administration? The release should cover the full arc of the global financial crisis (beginning with intelligence failures of early warning and forecasting) as well as the history of intelligence and decision-making in the terrorism, Iraq, and Afghanistan engagements and the tactical learning/non-learning processes that eventually discovered flawed assumptions..

Recent data will be invaluable to you - and to all of us, as scientists - to learn what we need to know to answer more fully the questions about data, analysis, and effective presentation that you have been asked. We need to understand what really happened, and what went wrong.

It is possible that the government problems were solely the flaws of the President and Vice President and a Secretary of the Treasury. But I don't think so. There probably is more to learn. We should learn it quickly.

[The only legitimate objection would be compromises of national security interests. Thus, communications with other governments might be excluded, just as Dr. Daniel Ellsberg withheld a volume from copies of The Pentagon Papers that he distributed in 1971.

I think that most people would agree that the Pentagon Papers gave social scientists - and the public - information that we needed to know. Huge and relatively timely disclosures of top secret documents actually had no obvious affect on national security. It is difficult to imagine why the truth about what happened in

the Bush years should, in the Obama years, be damaging to the nation.]

[The British have an Iraq War Commission underway, chaired by Sir David Chilcot. In the same spirit, I think President Obama might wish to waive Executive Privilege for actions of his predecessor if there are Congressional hearings. However, as scientists, we should make our own requests, especially when we are asked for national advice and conclusions about the DNI systems (as you have been).]

I do not know if Admiral Blair and President Obama will agree. However I think it is more likely that they will do so if the National Academy of Sciences makes a legitimate request.

Thank you,
Lloyd Etheredge

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