



**Statement by  
Thomas H. Kean, Chair, and Lee H. Hamilton, Vice Chair  
of the 9-11 Commission**

**February 25, 2004** — The Commission welcomes Senate consideration of a bipartisan bill to extend the Commission's report deadline by an additional two months. We understand that the President also supports the speedy passage of this legislation. We are grateful to the members of Congress of both parties who have offered this vital support for our work.

We also welcome the decision of former President Clinton and former Vice President Gore to meet privately with all members of the Commission. President Bush and Vice President Cheney have agreed to meet privately with the Chair and Vice Chair, but prefer not to meet with all members of the Commission. We hope the President and the Vice President will reconsider.

The Commission learned that National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice has declined our invitation to appear at the Commission's public hearing on counterterrorism policy next month. We are disappointed by this decision. Although we have met privately with Dr. Rice, we believe the nation would be well served by the contribution she can make to public understanding of the intelligence and policy issues being examined by the Commission.

**AL FELZENBERG, DEPUTY FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States  
Office: 202-401-1725 • Cell: 202-236-4878 • Fax: 202-296-5545  
afelzenberg@9-11commission.gov**