MEDIA ADVISORY

9-11 Commission to Examine 9-11 Plot and National Crisis Management at Final Public Hearing

June 15, 2004 — The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9-11 Commission) will hold its twelfth and final public hearing on June 16-17, 2004, in Washington, DC. The two-day hearing will focus on two distinct topics: the 9-11 Plot and the federal government’s immediate response to the attacks on September 11, 2001.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on June 16 at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center, the Commission will hear from several of the federal government’s top law enforcement and intelligence experts on al Qaeda and the 9-11 plot. The hearing will resume at 8:00 a.m. on June 17, with the top military and civilian aviation officials testifying about their agencies’ responses to the 9-11 attacks. In addition to witness testimony, three staff statements will be presented during the course of the proceedings. A complete hearing agenda and directions to the NTSB Conference Center (429 L’Enfant Plaza, SW) follow this advisory.

“At this, the Commission’s final public hearing, we will attempt to close the circle,” said Commission Chair Thomas H. Kean. “We will look back to the roots and growth of al Qaeda, its previous attacks on the United States, its financing and international support, and how it plotted such detailed and intricate attacks on our soil. The Commission will then turn again to the day of September 11, 2001, to examine how the federal government learned of and responded to the attacks.”

“The Commission has to ask some important questions about that day,” said Commission Vice Chair Lee H. Hamilton. “What was federal government protocol for responding to attacks of the kind we experienced on 9-11? How well did our government respond that day? How is the federal government now prepared to respond, in the event of future attacks?”

The hearing will be open to the public and members of the media. As with previous hearings, the Commission will reserve a large number of seats for 9-11 families. These seats, as well as seating for the general public, will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors will open to the public one hour prior to the start of the hearing.

Members of the media must register by the close of business on Monday, June 14, by visiting the Commission’s website, www.9-11commission.gov. The Commission will only admit those whose registration has been confirmed. A more complete list of press guidelines may be found in the Press section of the Commission’s website.

AL FELZENBERG, DEPUTY FOR COMMUNICATIONS
National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States
Office: 202-401-1725 • Cell: 202-236-4878 • Fax: 202-358-3124
afelzenberg@9-11commission.gov
THE 9/11 PLOT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.       STAFF STATEMENT NO. 15
                      Overview of the Enemy

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.      PANEL: AL QAEDA

  Ms. Mary Deborah Doran
  Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

  Mr. Patrick J. Fitzgerald
  U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois

  CIA Official

11:00 – 12:00 a.m.     STAFF STATEMENT NO. 16
                      Outline of the 9/11 Plot

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.      BREAK

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.       PANEL: OUTLINE OF THE 9/11 PLOT

  Ms. Jacqueline Maguire
  Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

  Mr. James N. Fitzgerald
  Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

  Mr. Adam B. Drucker
  Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

  CIA Official
Hearing Agenda (cont’d)

NATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

8:00 – 9:15 a.m. STAFF STATEMENT NO. 17
Improvising a Homeland Defense

9:15 – 11:30 a.m. PANEL: MILITARY RESPONSE ON 9/11

General Richard Myers, USAF
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Admiral (select) Charles Joseph Leidig, USN
Commandant of Midshipmen, United States Naval Academy

General Ralph E. Eberhart, USAF
Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command

Major General Larry Arnold, USAF (Ret.)
Former Commander, Continental United States NORAD Region (CONR)

11:30 – 1:00 p.m. PANEL: FAA RESPONSE ON 9/11

Mr. Monte Belger
Former Acting Deputy Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration

Mr. Jeff Griffith
Former Deputy Director, Air Traffic Control, Federal Aviation Administration

Mr. John White
Former Facility Manager, Air Traffic Control Systems Command Center, Federal Aviation Administration

Mr. Benedict Sliney
Operations Manager, New York Terminal Radar Approach Control, Federal Aviation Administration

1:00 p.m. Hearing concludes.

All times and panels are subject to change. Visit www.9-11commission.gov for the most current information.
DIRECTIONS TO THE NTSB CONFERENCE CENTER

The hearing will be held at the NTSB Conference Center at 429 L’Enfant Plaza, SW, in Washington, DC, near the intersection of 10th and D Streets, SW.

By Subway

Take the yellow, green, orange, or blue Metro lines to the L’Enfant Plaza stop. Take the 9th & D / L’Enfant Plaza exit, walk through the shopping promenade, past the atrium, and take the escalator (in front of the CVS) down.

By Train

Take the Manassas or Fredericksburg lines of the VRE from Virginia to the L’Enfant stop. Exit the platform at 7th Street side. At the bottom of the steps, make a left towards D Street. Take a right on D Street and follow the signs to La Promenade shopping mall on the left. Walk through the shopping promenade, past the atrium, and take the escalator (in front of the CVS) down.

By Car

The street entrance to the conference center is identified by the awning for the La Promenade shopping mall on lower 10th Street SW. Note that 10th Street SW runs only from D Street to Frontage Road and does not intersect with Independence Ave. L’Enfant Promenade SW is an elevated road that runs above 10th Street SW, from Independence Ave. south past L’Enfant Plaza to Banneker Circle SW.

The center is also accessible by stairs down from L’Enfant Plaza Promenade to La Promenade shopping mall. Once down the stairs, take the escalator (in front of the CVS) down.

Public garage parking is available immediately adjacent to the entrance on 10th Street SW.

From: Points south of Washington, DC, via I-395
Cross the 14th Street Bridge and take US-1 north at the 14th Street exit. Turn right on Independence Avenue, right on 7th Street SW, right on D Street SW, and left on 10th Street SW.

From: Points north of Washington, DC, via I-95
Take I-495, the Capital Beltway, south to Maryland Route 295 south, to U.S. Route 50 (New York Avenue) west. Take I-395 south towards the tunnel, to 12th Street exit towards downtown. Turn left onto the D Street ramp, right on 12th Street SW, right on Independence Ave. SW, right on 7th Street SW, right on D Street SW, and left on 10th Street SW.