

# Appendix F

## Congressional Request and Support Letters

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### United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 22, 1989

The Honorable John H. Gibbons  
Director, Office of Technology Assessment  
United States Congress  
Washington, D. C. 20510-8025

Dear Dr. Gibbons:

We are writing to request that OTA conduct a study to identify and assess those technologies that could provide the Nation with tools in the fight against terrorism.

The past two decades have seen a steep rise in terrorist actions, often directed at U.S. targets, including civilians. Attacks have included kidnappings, hijackings and bombings of civilian aircraft, as well as bombings of U.S. economic or military targets. The case of Pan Am 103 is only the most recent and most striking of a long series of such incidents. Moreover, statements by Iranian leaders lead us to expect that terrorist attacks against American citizens throughout the world may increase.

The practical difficulty of responding to terrorist attacks has been apparent. Since terror consists of limited actions often directed at civilians, military tactics and technologies are frequently not applicable, either in preventing an occurrence or in dealing with an ongoing one.

For example, highly intrusive and costly security measures, which the military or police agencies can employ, could make the successful emplacement of explosive devices on civilian aircraft very difficult. But they might also paralyze air travel and commerce, as well as intrude on many Americans' concept of a free society. As another example, if passengers were taken hostage aboard an aircraft, a classic military assault to retake the aircraft would seriously endanger the hostages.

One strong asset that the U.S. possesses is its high level of technological development. We would like to assure ourselves that the Nation is taking full advantage of its capabilities in this area. While we are aware that there is no

The Honorable John H. Gibbons  
June 22, 1989  
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technical fix for terrorism and that even the most ingenious **technologies will not prevent all attacks, technology is a vital tool, to be used along with intelligence-gathering, law enforcement, and, where required, military or para-military action.**

Therefore, we would like OTA to review the current status of research, federally-funded and other, aimed at developing counter-terrorist tools. The review should also assess research and development that, while not explicitly developed for counter-terrorism, might have applications in that area. It should include, but not necessarily be limited to explosives detectors, methods of access and perimeter control, non-lethal but disabling weapons, incapacitating agents, and improved data exchange on terrorism and terrorist techniques. In carrying out this study, classified research and development activities within federal agencies should be examined, along with **open sources.**

The report should assess whether federally-funded research in this area is well coordinated and sufficiently focused. It should also identify those areas where increased resources would be helpful in producing positive results in the short-term. We do not expect the study to deal with intelligence gathering or with police or military tactics.

We anticipate that the final report will be unclassified. However, in order to avoid putting useful material into the hands of potential terrorists, we expect that OTA will also produce a substantial classified annex that would accompany the report. An interim report should be provided to the Committee by March 1, 1990. The final report should be furnished no later than December 31, 1990.

Sincerely,

  
John Glenn  
Chairman

  
William V. Roth, Jr.  
Ranking Minority Member

JHG/mkh

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

July 6, 1989

Dr. John H. Gibbons  
Office of Technology Assessment  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Dr. Gibbons:

As the tragic downing of Pan Am 103 demonstrated last year, terrorism continues to exact its toll on Americans. Combatting terrorism remains a difficult task for all governments, and the United States and its citizens remain a significant target of a number of terrorism organizations.

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics and International Operations, we are writing to request that OTA conduct a study to identify and assess technologies that can provide the U.S. with tools in the fight against terrorism.

In recent years, we have seen a steep rise in terrorist actions, including kidnappings, hijackings and bombings of civilian aircraft, as well as bombings of U.S. economic or military targets. Statements by Iranian leaders, and reports of continued terrorist activity by a variety of foreign political and military organizations, lead us to expect that terrorist attacks against American citizens throughout the world may increase.

The Pan Am attack highlighted the difficulties of responding to intelligence about possible terrorist attacks, as well as some of the limitations of current anti-terrorist detection equipment.

To date, we know of no study available to the Congress which has undertaken a comprehensive review of anti-terrorist technologies, with a view of assisting the Congress in determining how we can better fight terrorism.

Accordingly, we request that OTA conduct a study of current and possible future U.S. anti-terrorism technologies.

The review would assess those technologies now in place; review the current status of research, federally-funded and other, aimed at -developing counter-terrorist tools; and assess research and development that, while not explicitly developed for counter-terrorism, might have applications in that area.

We would appreciate the study also including a review of the capabilities of specific technologies such as explosives detectors and incapacitating agents. We believe it would also be helpful for the Congress to understand the current limits and capabilities of data collection and exchanges on terrorism, (in terms of the technologies used to move information from one network to another), as well as the techniques used by terrorists in committing terrorist acts.

The report should assess whether federally-funded research in this area is well coordinated and sufficiently focused, and to identify those **areas** where increased resources would be helpful in producing positive results in the short-term. To carry this study out properly, we believe OTA should rely on both classified research and development activities within federal agencies and open sources.

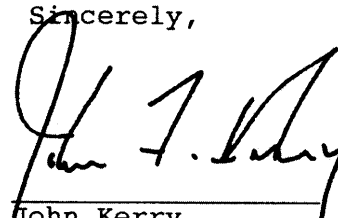
We anticipate that **the final report will be unclassified. However, in order to avoid putting useful material into the hands of potential terrorists, we expect that OTA will also produce a substantial classified annex that would accompany the report. An interim report should be provided to the committee by March 1, 1990. The final report should be furnished no later than December 31, 1990.**

We very much appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Mitch McConnell  
Ranking Member



John Kerry  
Chairman

ERNEST F HOLLINGS SOUTH CAROLINA CHAIRMAN

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WALTER B McCORMICK JR MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

August 3, 1989

The Honorable John H. Gibbons  
Director, Office of Technology Assessment  
United States Congress  
Washington, D. C. 20510-8025

Dear Dr. Gibbons:

The bombing of Pan Am Flight *103* last December is only the most recent in a series of attacks on American civilian aircraft by terrorists. Given our jurisdiction over aviation security, we are concerned about protecting the safety of American travelers at **home and abroad, particularly with** respect to utilizing the most effective advanced technologies for airport security screening.

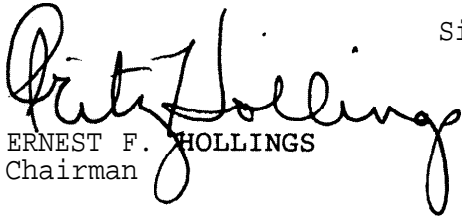
Although we are aware that there is no certain technical fix for terrorism, we would like to assure that the Nation is taking full advantage of its technological capabilities. Accordingly, we request OTA to review the current status of Federally-funded and other research aimed at developing tools for providing airport security.

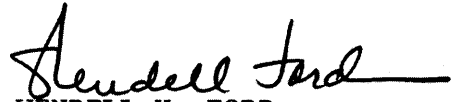
The study should assess research and development on explosive detection devices, including those capable of detecting very small amounts of explosives; methods of access control; human factors; and improved data exchange. Classified research and development activities within the Federal agencies as well as other sources should be examined. The study should also address the degree to which Federally-funded research in this area is coordinated and focused, as well as those areas where increased resources might help to bring positive results in the short-term.

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We anticipate that the final report will be unclassified, with the option of a classified appendix. It would be helpful to the Committee to have **an** interim report in the spring of 1990, with the final report submitted by the end of 1990.

Sincerely,

  
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS  
Chairman

  
WENDELL H. FORD  
Chairman  
Aviation Subcommittee

  
JOHN C. DANFORTH  
Ranking Minority

  
JOHN MCCAIN  
Ranking Minority

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WILLIAM S. COHEN, MAINE, VICE CHAIRMAN

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HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO	JOHN C. DANFORTH, MISSOURI
JOHN H. GLENN, JR., OHIO	

## United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC 10510-6475

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KATHLEEN P. MCGHEE, CHIEF CLERK

June 7, 1990

SSCI #90-2534

Dr. John H. Gibbons  
Director  
Congress of the United States  
Office of Technology Assessment  
Washington, D. C. 20510-8025

Dear Dr. Gibbons:

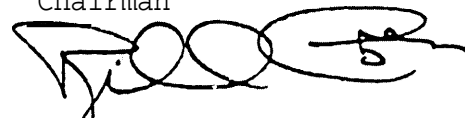
We understand that the Office of Technology Assessment is currently engaged in a study of the uses of technology to combat terrorism. This study is being "conducted at the request of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Aviation, and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics and International Operations of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is our understanding that the study will include an examination of federal research and development efforts in this area. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence endorses the requests of these committees and strongly supports this work, which, we hope, will provide useful information in assessing the effectiveness and the degree of interagency coordination of such activities.

Accordingly, the Senate Intelligence Committee wishes to be kept fully informed of the progress of OTA'S work on this project and to receive related publications and briefings as soon as they are available. The point of contact on our staff is Charles Battaglia at 4-1765.

Sincerely,



David L. Boren  
Chairman



William S. Cohen  
Vice Chairman