

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties  
 From: John McLaughlin  
 Re: National Survey Results  
 Date: May 19, 2009

**Major Findings:**

**1. American voters still see terrorism as a very serious threat to the United States.**

Nationwide, voters are very concerned about the threat of terrorism and the development of nuclear weapons in Iran. In an open-ended question, voters say terrorism (15%) is the greatest threat to the United States. Nine in ten voters (91%) say that Iran supplying a nuclear umbrella for terrorists is a serious threat to the United States. This sentiment is strong across the board including among those who voted last year for Barack Obama. There is a great deal of intensity to this sentiment as nearly seven in ten voters (69%) say Iran supplying a nuclear umbrella for terrorists is a *very* serious threat.

*Who or what is the **GREATEST** threat to the United States?*

	<b>Total</b>
Terrorism	15
Ourselves	7
The Economy	6
Barack Obama	5
Iraq	4
Al Qaeda	4
Government	3
North Korea	3
Immigration/Illegal Aliens	3
Iran	3
Don't Know/Refused	15

*How serious a threat to the United States do you view each of the following?  
 "Iran supplying a nuclear umbrella for terrorists".*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
<b>SERIOUS THREAT</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>88</b>
Very Serious	69	77	64	65	59
Somewhat Serious	22	18	25	24	30
<b>NOT A THREAT</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Don't Know/Refused	3	3	3	3	3

## **2. American voters see Iran’s nuclear weapons as a terror threat to the United States.**

Seven in ten voters (71%) say the United States will not be safe with a nuclear Iran. If Iran is able to produce a nuclear weapon, nearly eight in ten voters (79%) say it is likely that Iran will provide nuclear weapons to terrorists to attack an American city.

*Will the United States be safe with a nuclear Iran?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
Yes	16	9	19	20	20
No	71	81	64	64	62
Don't Know/Refused	14	10	17	16	18

*Iran is currently developing a nuclear weapon, when Iran is able to produce a nuclear weapon how likely do you think it is that Iran would launch a nuclear attack on each of the following?*

<b>Likely/Not Likely</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
Provide nuclear weapons to terrorists to attack an American city.	79/14	85/9	72/19	79/14	72/19

## **3. Americans are concerned about the security of Israel and see a nuclear Iran as a threat to Israel.**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has a net positive opinion rating of 41% favorable to only 17% unfavorable. More than eight in ten voters (82%) say the United States should be concerned about the security of the State of Israel. Eight in ten voters (80%) say it is likely that Iran will launch a missile attack on Israel, and three in four voters (77%) say it is likely that Iran will use the threat of nuclear attack to provide a shield for Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists to attack Israel.

*Now, I am going to read you a list of names and countries. Will you please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person or country? If you have no opinion or have never heard of the person, just say so.*

*“Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu”*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
<b>FAVORABLE</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>
Very Favorable	14	22	9	13	7
Somewhat Favorable	27	31	25	21	23
<b>UNFAVORABLE</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>
Somewhat Unfavorable	11	7	14	12	14
Very Unfavorable	6	5	8	7	9
No Opinion	34	31	33	40	37
Never Heard Of	8	5	12	8	10

*Should the United States be concerned about the security of the State of Israel?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
Yes	82	87	79	80	79
No	10	9	9	14	10
Don't Know/Refused	8	5	12	6	11

*Iran is currently developing a nuclear weapon, when Iran is able to produce a nuclear weapon how likely do you think it is that Iran would launch a nuclear attack on each of the following?*

<b>Likely/Not Likely</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
Launch a nuclear missile attack on Israel.	80/14	89/6	74/18	75/19	72/20
Use the threat of nuclear attack to provide a shield for Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists to attack Israel.	77/9	84/5	74/10	73/13	73/10

The majority of voters (57%) says that Israel would be justified in attacking Iran's nuclear facilities given that Iran has publicly threatened to annihilate Israel.

*Given that Iran has publicly threatened to annihilate Israel, would Israel be justified in attacking Iran's nuclear facilities?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
Yes	57	67	47	57	47
No	25	19	31	23	31
Don't Know/Refused	19	15	22	20	22

#### **4. Most Americans do not believe that a two state solution will bring peace.**

Six in ten voters (60%) say that the Palestinians would continue their campaign of terror to destroy Israel even if they were given their own state in the West Bank and Gaza. Only 18% of voters say the Palestinians would live peacefully with Israel.

*Do you think that if the Palestinians were given their own state in the West Bank and Gaza they would live peacefully with Israel or continue their campaign of terror to destroy Israel?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
Live Peacefully	18	7	25	20	26
Destroy Israel	60	75	47	58	44
Don't Know/Refused	23	18	28	22	30

## 5. Americans approve of measures to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

The majority of voters approves of taking several specific actions to discourage the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Iran. Six in ten voters (60%) approve of blockading the import of gasoline and food to Iran to stop Iran from building a nuclear weapon. Nearly six in ten voters approve of allowing and assisting Israel to attack and destroy Iran's nuclear weapons program facilities (59%) and also approve of using the military to attack and destroy the facilities in Iran that are necessary to produce a nuclear weapon (58%). Additionally, 54% approve of the United States providing aid including military assistance to pro Democratic dissidents in Iran who want to overthrow the radical Islamic regime.

*Would approve or disapprove of the following proposals?*

<b>Approve/Disapprove</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Voted Obama '08</b>
Blockading the import of gasoline and food to Iran to stop Iran from building a nuclear weapon.	60/25	72/15	54/31	52/30	52/34
Allowing and assisting Israel to attack and destroy Iran's nuclear weapons program facilities.	59/29	67/23	47/39	69/21	44/41
Using the military to attack and destroy the facilities in Iran which are necessary to produce a nuclear weapon.	58/30	70/20	45/38	60/31	39/45
The United States providing aid including military assistance to pro Democratic dissidents in Iran who want to overthrow the radical Islamic regime.	54/29	58/28	52/26	50/36	49/33

### **Methodology:**

*McLaughlin & Associates conducted a national survey of 600 likely voters on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. All interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. Respondents were randomly selected within predetermined geographic units structured to correlate with actual voter turnout. The survey of 600 likely voters has an accuracy of +/- 4.0% at a 95% confidence interval.*