



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

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Congressman Christopher Shays to Convene June 18 Hearing on

“VISA REVOCATIONS: CATCHING THE TERRORISTS AMONG US”

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing Wednesday to examine the process of revoking visas and locating those who have entered the country prior to the revocation of their visa.

In the course of completing an earlier report, the General Accounting Office (GAO) discovered 200 foreign nationals suspected of terrorist involvement had received visas granting them access to the United States due to a lapse in a background check system. In part due to duplicative records, this number was later reduced to 105. These visas were subsequently revoked.

At the request of the Subcommittee and a similar request by Senator Charles E. Grassley, GAO launched an investigation of the 105 known revoked visas as well as all other visas revoked on terrorism grounds since September 11, 2001.

GAO will release a report, “Border Security: New Policies and Procedures Needed to Fill Gaps in the Visa Revocation Process” (GAO-03-798) at the hearing and testify that the Department of State, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) lacked effective policies and procedures for handling visa revocations. GAO is also expected to note DHS and FBI have made little effort to locate aliens who entered the U.S. prior to their visa revocation.

The Wednesday, June 18, 2003 hearing will convene at 10:00 a.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

WITNESSES

Mr. Jess T. Ford

Director

International Affairs and Trade Division

U.S. General Accounting Office

Ms. Catherine Barry

Managing Director, Office of Visa Services

Bureau of Consular Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Mr. Jayson P. Ahern

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations

Bureau of Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr. Charles H. Demore

Interim Assistant Director for Investigations

Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr. Steven C. McCraw

Inspector-Deputy Assistant Director of Intelligence and

Director, Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force

Federal Bureau of Investigation