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To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy of Sciences Study on Social & Behavioral Science and Improving Intelligence for National Security" <baruch@cmu.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

## **Subject: The DNI & a Global Power Experiment**

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

Re DNI data and the new generation of government-wide, online information systems: You might want to recommend an online initiative to accelerate international cooperation on science-related global problems. And, more broadly, for global power/public credibility/public diplomacy.

### **Background**

Earlier this decade a CSIS Commission on Public Diplomacy recommended that the US government become the world's trusted online source of data and information about global trends and policy issues. The original recommendation - for Knowledge Management+Public Diplomacy - was addressed to the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (which, now, is part of the DNI system). The first step - which the DNI now has taken - was to create an online system to allow government personnel to access what the government knows.

### **The DNI System: A Daily Portal for Governments/Government Professionals Worldwide**

The next step - for Public Diplomacy (and, in my conception, to increase global power) - is to place all of the unclassified information online, with good user interfaces (possibly specialized or customizable in each area with US policy objectives, like [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)). Thus, the US government site would become the daily online working/reference site for all US government personnel - and save them time; for all government professionals - i.e., in *all* governments around the world; for NGOs; for research scientists with interests in policy; and for students in all countries who are writing papers or doing research and who want reliable information about climate change data, etc.

Alongside current data, the sites also would include historical and other reference materials that the US government "knows" - e.g., online texts of

speeches, official reports, and treaties; UN documents; links to the policy statements of other nation; connections to current international policy discussions at leading podiums (e.g., via <http://uc.princeton.edu>).<1>

[I want to underscore the DNI/USGOV site as a daily portal for government professionals in *all* governments engaged in international questions. It will save them time. There is unlikely to be anything as good, or useful, or well-designed available in most of the world's Foreign Ministries and other government agencies, especially outside the most advanced industrial countries. And the US gains a psychological advantage of being the trusted and credible source of information and an honest broker government.]

### **Global Credibility and 70 Million Uses/Month: The Pub Med Example**

I am suggesting a strategic use of the unclassified part of the DNI's \$75 billion/year data & information empire to build the US government's own Knowledge Management system jointly with international capacity for cooperation, policy analysis, and progress. Alongside the [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int) example, another model is the National Library of Medicine, which supports about 70 million PubMed searches/month - online, from users in the US and worldwide - to accelerate international cooperation in biomedical research and international health ([http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/About/tools/restable\\_stat\\_pubmed.html](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/About/tools/restable_stat_pubmed.html)).

### **A Useful Experiment re Science & Global Power: An Environmental Library/Online System**

An initial application of this idea might be science, the environment, and international cooperation. There is a very interesting idea to create a National Library for the Environment, based on the NLM model, with leadership from former Ambassador Benedick, former NSF Directors, US government and UN officials, and others. The DNI affirms - in both Global 2025 and his National Intelligence Plan - that progress on climate change issues is a critical path for US national security. You might want to recommend putting the two pieces together: <http://ncseonline.org/nle/> - and we also will have a good (and low-cost) experimental test of a new conception of global power in the 21st century.

Lloyd Etheredge

<1> The Secretary's Open Forum at the Department of State would be an interesting part of the Website. Most nations and Foreign Ministries (or students in other countries) probably do not appreciate how much genuine discussion of current and future policy occurs in the US system.

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