

WMD panel says major terrorist attack likely by 2013

Contributed by Klaus Marre
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Former Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) said Tuesday that a massive terrorist attack will likely occur by 2013 unless the world community acts quickly and decisively.

Graham is the chairman of the congressionally appointed Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, which is releasing a report on the steps that must be taken to prevent terrorists from getting access to such weapons.

“Ours remains a world at risk and our margin of safety is shrinking, not growing,” Graham said. “The commission believes that unless the world community acts decisively and with great urgency, it is likely that a weapon of mass destruction will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013.”

The panel is briefing President Bush, Vice President-elect Biden and congressional leaders on its findings.

The panel wants President-elect Obama and the new Congress to take “immediate” steps, both unilaterally and in concert with the international community, to keep nuclear and biological weapons out of the hands of terrorists.

“The report covers a lot of important ground, but probably the most important is its assessment: The risk is growing, not because we’re making no progress but because the enemy is adapting and we must constantly anticipate and adapt as well across a broad front,” said former Sen. Jim Talent (R-Mo.), the panel’s vice chairman.

Among the commission’s recommendations are for the U.S. to “radically revamp” its Pakistan policy to work toward eliminating the safe haven that terrorists currently have in parts of that country.

The panel also stated that it is more likely that terrorists would use a biological weapon of mass destruction than a nuclear weapon and that the country has to be ready for such an attack.