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Statement of Ambassador Thomas E. McNamara, Program Manager Information Sharing Environment regarding the submission to the Congress on the third Annual Report to the Congress on the Information Sharing Environment:

“Today, on behalf of President Obama and Director of National Intelligence Blair, I forwarded to both houses of Congress a report citing progress and challenges in implementing the Information Sharing Environment (ISE). Over the last three years, we have made significant strides toward establishing a functioning—but still evolving—ISE that ensures that the proper information gets to the right people in time to counter threats to our people and institutions. But despite these accomplishments, the task is far from finished. Formidable cultural and policy hurdles still remain as the ISE’s foundational phase is concluded and a new phase of ISE implementation, under the leadership of a new Administration, begins. While we have been fortunate to have not suffered another major attack since 2001, the sense of urgency that brought the ISE into being should be no less now than it was then. I hope that this report will help ensure that the work of the PM-ISE and of our partners at all levels of government and in the private sector will continue to move forward with all due speed and diligence so that we can continue to use our collective resources wisely and well to keep our nation safe from attack, while continuing to protect and defend the privacy and civil liberties we hold so dear.”