

From: <Duesburw@aol.com>
To: <DNSTransition@ntia.doc.gov>
Date: Sun, May 31, 2009 10:19 PM
Subject: U.S. Government (USG) Internet Oversight

Ladies and Gentlemen:

REFERENCE: Joint Project Agreement (JPA), which grants USG loose control of Internet management

1. BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT -- ACTION RECOMMENDED. Recommend that the President of the United States exercise his option to extend reference agreement, thereby retaining USG involvement in Internet management.

2. RATIONALE:

a. the Internet is not yet ready to be transitioned to private or international management. Furthermore, there are serious concerns about DNS security that remain unresolved.

b. America has been criticized for keeping a tight hold on the Internet, but this is not the complete story. The U.K., The Netherlands, Sweden, and Japan all control root zones. The U.S. does not have a total monopoly on the Internet as sometimes suggested. Frequently, the critics of U.S. management are the same 5 governments: China, Russia, Syria, Iran and Venezuela. Each of these regimes have questionable human rights, free speech, and free press records and as such are threatened by the free flow of information.

c. For a number of years, USG and private sector entities have been under various forms of computer network attack by a wide variety of malefactors. In response, the President has appointed a Cyber Czar within his National Security Staff structure and the Department of Defense is reportedly preparing to stand up a Cyber Command, a unified combatant command, under Lieutenant General (U.S. Army) Keith Alexander, currently serving as Director of the National Security Agency.

3. RECAP: On its face, the option of not renewing the JPA appears most unwise. Unless Ms. Melissa Hathaway and LTG Alexander both sign off on the proposal, I would not that the President and the USG not do it.

Very Respectfully,

William C. Duesbury
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

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