

CLIP 8:

It falls to us in the government, whether elected or career officials, to understand the world as it is, not as we might wish it to be, and to do what is necessary to protect our people against hostile powers, bent on our destruction. It's what our citizens expect of us. And it's the most fundamental reason they hire us in the first place. We have some specific challenges ahead of us this year, whether it's adequately funding our military and intelligence agencies or reauthorizing section 702. But an even bigger challenge is to think strategically, to question conventional wisdom, especially when that wisdom is comfortable and easy...when it suggests that war is not possible and our enemies will fight a fair war on the best possible terms for us if a war occurs. I have this obligation as a senator. You all have this obligation as intelligence officers. And for those of you who are also intelligence lawyers, you have the additional responsibility to assure your fellow citizens that your agencies conduct their missions in accordance with law.