

For Immediate Release

Sept. 26, 2005

HBO FILMS SPECIAL PRESENTATION **LAST BEST CHANCE**  
EXAMINES THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR TERRORISM  
WHEN IT DEBUTS OCT. 17, EXCLUSIVELY ON HBO

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Fact-Based Film Is Produced By The Nuclear Threat Initiative,  
Co-Chaired By Philanthropist Ted Turner And Former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn;  
Warren Buffett Serves As Advisor To The Board Of Directors  
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The HBO Films acquisition **LAST BEST CHANCE** explores the lack of security for nuclear weapons and nuclear materials around the world, sketching a chillingly plausible scenario in which terrorists acquire nuclear weapons. Based on facts, the timely film debuts **MONDAY, OCT 17 (8:00-9:00 p.m. ET/PT)**, exclusively on HBO.

Other HBO playdate: Oct. 23 (10:00 a.m.).

HBO2 playdates: Oct. 19 (10:00 p.m.), 27 (11:00 p.m.) and 30 (10:15 p.m.).

**LAST BEST CHANCE** stars former Senator Fred Dalton Thompson (R-TN), Jon Gries ("Napoleon Dynamite"), Monti Sharp, Denis Arnot and Sergei Priselkov. Written and directed by Ben Goddard, it was produced by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) with additional funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

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## LAST BEST CHANCE -- 2

In LAST BEST CHANCE, Al Qaeda operatives organize three separate operations aimed at getting nuclear weapons or nuclear material. They obtain nuclear weapons material, which is fabricated into crude nuclear weapons by bomb-making experts recruited to help in the manufacturing process. Governments around the world discover clues to the plot and race to try and stop the terrorists before it's too late.

The film shows that the greatest challenge for terrorists is gaining control of nuclear weapons or material. Because governments failed to take sufficient action to secure or destroy the nuclear weapons material, they find themselves helpless to prevent an attack.

"The least expensive, most effective way to prevent nuclear terrorism is to lock down nuclear weapons and materials at the source, in every country and facility that has them," says Sam Nunn, co-chairman of NTI. "We hope that this film will help the public better understand the dangers, and inspire them to urge their governments to accelerate the pace of work to secure nuclear weapons and materials around the world."

"When people are moving too slowly to respond to a danger, one option is to make it more vivid," notes NTI co-chairman Ted Turner. "The film is frightening, but it is not fear-mongering. Seeing the danger is the first step to reducing the risk."

LAST BEST CHANCE has also gained the attention of the chair and vice chair of the 9/11 Commission, who warned in their 2004 report that nuclear terrorism was the greatest threat to our country. They have described the film as "a wake-up call for America and the world."

"We need an all-out effort to lock up the weapons-grade nuclear material scattered around the world," say 9/11 Commission chair Thomas H. Kean and vice chair Lee H.

## LAST BEST CHANCE -- 3

Hamilton. "LAST BEST CHANCE is not a message of despair, but a message of hope. If we act now, we can protect the American people and prevent disaster."

"LAST BEST CHANCE is a valuable tool to increase understanding of the global nuclear terrorism threat," observes Senator Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a member of the NTI board of directors. "The war on terrorism will not be won until every nuclear stockpile, wherever it may be in the world, is secured and accounted for to stringent and transparent standards. This has been the goal of the Nunn-Lugar program and why we are expanding it beyond the former Soviet Union."

The Nuclear Threat Initiative is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is working to reduce the global threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. It brings together people with different ideological views around a common mission focused on immediate actions to close the gap between the global threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials and the global response. NTI is governed by an international board of directors, co-chaired by philanthropist Ted Turner and former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn. Warren Buffett serves as advisor to the board.

Ben Goddard's (writer-director) credits include the award-winning independent feature film "Small Miracles" (aka "Taliesin Jones") and "Hemingway."

Aaron Goddard (executive producer) is a principal at Bread & Butter Productions, which specializes in radio and TV ads, pre-visualizations, short films and video communications.

Fred Dalton Thompson is a former U.S. Senator (R-TN). As an actor, he is most recently known for the Emmy<sup>®</sup>-winning series "Law & Order." His other TV work has

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included guest-starring roles on the series “China Beach,” “Wiseguy” and “Matlock.” Thompson’s feature film credits include “Marie,” “Cape Fear,” “In the Line of Fire,” “Die Hard II” and “The Hunt for Red October.”

Jon Gries began his acting career with “Helter Skelter.” Among his other film credits are “Real Genius,” “Running Scared,” “Ed and His Dead Mother,” “Get Shorty,” “Men in Black,” “Twin Falls, Idaho” and “Napoleon Dynamite.” He was also a regular on the series “The Pretender” and “Martin,” and made guest appearances on “Seinfeld,” “The X-Files,” “Quantum Leap,” “L.A. Law,” “Chicago Hope” and “Beverly Hills 90210.”

Sergei Priselkov appeared in “Spinning Boris” and “Confessions of a Dangerous Mind.” In addition to his film roles, he is an accomplished theater actor in his native Russia, where he received the Honored Artist of Russia Award in 1986.

LAST BEST CHANCE is based on facts about the lack of security for nuclear weapons and materials, including:

- The bipartisan 9/11 Commission reported that Al Qaeda has been trying to acquire nuclear weapons for ten years.<sup>1</sup>
- There are a number of confirmed incidents around the world in which governments have seized stolen highly enriched uranium or plutonium.<sup>2</sup>
- There are more than 100 research reactors or associated facilities worldwide with enough highly enriched uranium to potentially build a bomb.<sup>3</sup>
- The largest amount of vulnerable material is in Russia, but bomb-making material is also used in 40 different countries, including places like Belarus and South

Africa.<sup>4</sup>

Sources:

1 "The 9/11 Commission Report," 2004, page 380.

2 "Securing the Bomb," Matthew Bunn and Anthony Wier, *Managing the Atom Project* (Harvard University, 2004, page 12).

3 "Nuclear Research Reactors of the World," International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna, Austria: IAEA, September 2000)

4 National Nuclear Security Administration website, <http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/na-20/rrrfr.shtml>, as of 9/16/2005.

Additional information about *Last Best Chance* and the global nuclear threat can be found at [www.lastbestchance.org](http://www.lastbestchance.org).

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