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IMMEDIATE

**COMPUTER SCIENTISTS QUESTION TIA SURVEILLANCE PLAN
USACM Recommends an Independent Review of the U.S. Government's Total
Information Awareness Program**

Washington, DC, January 23, 2003... USACM, the U.S. Public Policy Committee of the Association for Computing Machinery, today sent a letter to Congress recommending a rigorous independent review of the U.S. Government's Total Information Awareness (TIA) program.

"As computer scientists and engineers we have significant doubts that the computer-based TIA program will achieve its stated goal of countering terrorism through prevention," said Dr. Barbara Simons, Co-chair of USACM. "Because of serious security, privacy, economic, and personal risks associated with the development of a vast database surveillance system, USACM recommends a rigorous independent review of these aspects of TIA. Such a review should include an examination of the technical feasibility and practical reality of the entire program." Dr. Simons said USACM would be pleased to assist in such a review.

The TIA program is being developed by the Department of Defense as part of an effort to counter terrorism. In its current form, the TIA program would involve gathering vast amounts of personal information from U.S. citizens to compile a database of highly

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