

## ATTACHMENT 2

Interview Transcript of Senator Carl M. Levin (D-MI) of December 10, 2006

Reference Question: "Senator, do you know that Israel has nuclear weapons?"



Senator Carl Levin Response (R): Yeah?

Reporter Question (Q): **Senator, do you know that Israel has nuclear weapons?**

R: Do I know that nuclear, that Israel has nuclear weapons? No.

Q: You don't know that?

R: I just answered that question.  
You asked me if I knew that Israel has nuclear weapons.  
My answer is 'no.'

Q: Do you know that the United States has nuclear weapons?

R: I do. I've seen them, I've touched them . . .

Q: (Laughter) It's an existential question? I mean, do you know that Russia has nuclear weapons? I don't understand. I mean . . .

R: I do, I've touched them, I've touched them too!

Q: Everybody knows that Israel has nuclear weapons, why won't you acknowledge that?

R: I think they have nuclear weapons. You asked me do I 'know' they have nuclear weapons. I'm very careful, just the way you are with your use of words; I was very careful in answering. I think they do.

Q: So we assess that Israel has nuclear weapons?

R: I am not going to give you our assessment; I'm going to say I think Israel has nuclear weapons, I'm not going to give an intelligence assessment.

Q: Why?

R: 'Because, because it may be classified what we as a nation know.

Q: Why would that be, why can't we be straight forward on the subject? Gates for the first time during a hearing . . .

R: I'm very straight forward, I think Israel has nuclear weapons. You didn't ask me that . . .

Q: I said, us as government, I'm asking as a government, if we haven't asserted that, why would that be?

R: Why have we not asserted that? You'd have ask the people who, the president of the United States. I'm not the government . . .