

HILLARY'S NATIONAL SECURITY ALLIANCE FOR QUIVERING OVER BANK PROSECUTIONS

Fresh off being caught lying about rolling her eyes in response to calls for Palestinian rights, Neera Tanden has rolled out something called the National Security Leadership Alliance. Best as I can tell, it exists mainly on paper right now – I couldn't even find it on CAP's site yet. But it seems designed to fear-monger about what will happen if Trump becomes Commander-in-Chief.

The project, called the National Security Leadership Alliance, will be funded by C.A.P. Action. It will feature a roster of major members of the foreign policy and national security community, including two retired four-star generals; Leon E. Panetta, the former C.I.A. director; Madeleine K. Albright, the former secretary of state; Eric H. Holder Jr., the former attorney general; and Carl Levin, the former Michigan senator. All have endorsed Mrs. Clinton.

There will be an effort to highlight precisely what, in the military arsenal, Donald J. Trump would have access to as president. Mr. Trump has been criticized for his views on foreign policy, criticisms that have been central to the case that Mrs. Clinton has made against him in an effort to describe the stakes of the 2016 presidential election. The Center for American Progress is led by a top outside adviser to Mrs. Clinton, Neera Tanden, and the new project seeks to put a spotlight on what officials are calling a progressive foreign policy vision.

I'm perfectly okay with fearmongering about Trump. But let's look at this lineup. It features the woman who said letting half a million Iraqi children die was worth the price of enforcing sanctions against the country. It also includes a guy, Panetta, whose exposure of the identities of Osama bin Laden killers' to Hollywood producers serves to reinforce what a double standard on classified information Hillary (and Panetta) benefit from.

But I'm most curious by a "national security" team that includes both Eric Holder and Carl Levin, especially given the NYT focus, in announcing the venture, on Brexit.

"I think what brought us together is obviously a lot of concern about some of the division and polarization that we're seeing in the world," Mr. Panetta said in an interview. "We know we're living in a time of great change and uncertainty."

But he added, "The concern we have is we see these forces of division that are prepared to throw out the fundamental" principles of foreign policy in the United States over many decades.

"What we're learning from 'Brexit' is that there's a price to be paid in terms of letting out emotion dictate policy instead of responsible leadership," he said, referring to Britain's vote to leave the European Union. "We shouldn't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Leon Panetta, in rolling out a venture including Carl Levin – who as head of the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations worked tirelessly for some kind of accountability on bank crime – and Eric Holder – who ignored multiple criminal referrals from Levin, including one pertaining to Goldman Sachs head Lloyd Blankfein – says the lesson from Brexit is that we can't let emotion dictate policy but

instead should practice “responsible leadership” guarding the “fundamental principles of foreign policy in the United States over many decades.”

Of course, as David Dayen argued convincingly, to the extent Brexit was an emotional vote, the emotions were largely inflamed by elite failures – the failures of people like Eric Holder to demand any responsibility (Dayen doesn’t deal with the equally large failures of hawks like Albright whose destabilizing policies in the Middle East have created the refugee crisis in Europe, which indirectly inflamed Brexit voters).

Again, I’m okay if Hillary wants to spend her time fearmongering about the dangers of Trump.

But to do so credibly, she needs to be a lot more cognizant of the dangers her own team have created.