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full transcript:

Excerpt below, followed by

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bret: general for griffin live at the pentagon. thank you. more from james rosetant state department later in the show. join me now to discuss the thwarted terror plot is house intelligence committee chairman mike rogers. thank you for being here.

what do you know about this? how serious was it?

very serious. this is put in operation plot to commit an assassination in the united states maybe more in the united states. that overt action, there was a lot of discussion early on and chairman of the intelligence committee they kept us informed along the process here. early on they had conversations. conversations don't necessarily made a crime. what tipped this was transfer of the money. they believe they have the correct man that was a cut-out. they moved the money and it took it to another level. iran crossed a serious line.

bret: the attorney general said specifically there were elements inside the iranian government, faction pointing to the force that was part of the iranian revolutionary guard. what is the knowledge of how high this went up? did president mahmoud ahmadinejad in your opinion know this was going on?

talk about what we know. the republican guard were using actions to get weapon systems to target u.s. soldiers in iraq. we believe they did the same in afghanistan. this is a group of individuals that the state of iran use to support hezbollah and their terrorist activities that used now to prop up syria and the actions. they have a clear history of sponsoring the activity. we know this is connected to the group of people who are responsible for conducting all the activities i just talked about. in addition to that, this is a state that boldly says we're going to get nuclear weapons and we don't care what the world thinks. if you put the pieces together, you know, an old f.b.i. agent we called that a clue. this does not look good for the senior leadership of iran ability to deny this particular operation.

bret: so something this coordinated this planned out could not happen without the knowledge of the president of iraq?

hard for them to argue they didn't have a knowledge of this. given the large money involved in this particular operation. the sophistication of using their intelligence, their military intelligence forces outside of the country in mexico. they recruited somebody who was a cut out to do assassination, pretty sophisticated stuff to have a high level of approval to move forward.

bret: the attorney general and others inside the administration are pledging there will be consequences. when they

hear that in regard to iran it's usually a slap on the wrist. nothing significant. what does it mean? today after hearing about the thwarted plot there will be consequences what does that mean?

in the short-term, this is what i hope it means. we have had mediocre support from the european allies. this is their opportunity to stand up and say these are bad actors. this is a nation state that uses resources to support terror activities outside of the state of iran. dangerous indeed. we can crank up the angsts to make the lives miserable. we taught do it soon. this is a clear message to china have been installed this. this is your opportunity to join the rest of the world and put a stop to this from the terror nation state. then there are ways to go after the force and the activities around, which is more aggressive with the activity in iraq. same with afghanistan. it's important to send a clear signal. the united states won't tolerate this.

bret: is this rushed? the agency involved it's clear what they did. but the fact they stop this particular plot is this that we are lucky? are we vulnerable to this attack through the mexican cartels?

in law enforcement the more prepared you are, the luckier you get in this sense, this is working and somebody who already reporting on retie bad activity to the united states. on drug cartel activity. fortunate in the sense that this is a guy they chose to approach to put the deal together. a lot of creditability in the organization. real deal, to that end we were fortunate. i think it shows publicly the great lengths a country like iran would use to conduct an operation that would result in the death of ambassador to the united states from saudi arabia and possibly israel right here on the u.s. soil. all of the sophistication that was used and the cut-out, it would have been difficult to detect. everybody i argue makes a mistake along the way. the better prepared the law enforcement was and they are well prepared they would i hope catch it along the way. in this instance we caught it early in the operation, which was fortunate for us. certainly the saudis.

bret: last thing for those skeptical about the timing of this announcement, justice department under fire, getting subpoenas on the operation fast and furious. what do you say the administration says with the question of the timing of the announcement of this investigation?

i'm chairman of the committee, and the timing of this was designed around the case itself. can tell you that. the arrested individual started the clock ticking arraignment. it was a judicial clock, not a political clock. listen, i have a lot of disagreement with the administration. i think this operation was properly handled throughout the channels. it happened when it happened. it's not something they pick or choose when it unfolded.

bret: thank you for your time.