

of 1979, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to retain the export control system, including the antiboycott provisions, and will continue to

report periodically to the Congress on significant developments, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
April 23, 1991.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Social Security *April 23, 1991*

Dear Bob: (Dear George:)

Six months ago, the Administration and a bipartisan majority in the Congress agreed to separate Social Security from the Federal budget. The advocates of this action argued that this separation was necessary to help protect Social Security. To this end, we also agreed to implement a "firewall" procedure requiring a super-majority vote in the Senate to protect against efforts to deplete the Social Security trust fund balances.

It now appears that there is a Senate loophole in those procedures. It was slipped into last year's budget legislation without the knowledge or approval of many of those who participated in the budget summit. Recently, you and Senator Domenici introduced legislation to repair the Social Security "firewall." I support this legislation and urge the Senate to adopt it immediately.

It is my understanding that some may attempt to exploit this loophole during Senate consideration of the Congressional Budget Resolution. They may propose an amendment to clear the way for legislation to weaken the Social Security system. Senator Moynihan's proposal, for example,

would return Social Security to the same financing scheme that drove the system to the brink of insolvency in 1982. His proposal would drain roughly \$23 billion from Social Security trust fund reserves in 1992 and \$170 billion by the end of 1996. Under pessimistic economic assumptions, adoption of this legislation could again threaten to bankrupt the Social Security system.

We rescued the Social Security system eight years ago on a bipartisan basis. When we did, we made a promise to every American who receives Social Security benefits, to those who support the system today, and to those who will rely on it when they retire. We have worked together to assure that today's benefits are protected and that the system will be strong enough to continue providing benefits to future retirees. I intend to assure that we keep our promise.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to George J. Mitchell, Senate majority leader, and Robert Dole, Senate Republican leader.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander of the U.S. Forces in the Persian Gulf *April 23, 1991*

Q. Mr. President, what did you have to say to General Schwarzkopf?

The President. I'm listening. I'm in a listening mode. And besides, this is a photo

op, at which I normally do not take questions.

What I'll say to him and when he first got home is, welcome, well-done, and what he