

war and a modern military. And it, too, is directing its mission not just for those in the military but for their family members, as well.

The USO leadership is as diverse and talented as ever. And I want to thank you all very much, and so do the American people. Some of the members of the Celebrity Circle Executive Committee, including Tom Hanks and Quincy Jones, could not be here. But tell them I thanked them, and tell them we appreciate their hard work.

And for our troops abroad, USO's touch of home will mean even more—even more—as we head toward Thanksgiving and eventually the holiday seasons of the winter. And you can tell them they are

greatly needed where they are and they are greatly missed back home. And you can tell them the American people and the President are proud of their service.

May God bless the USO, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainers Wayne Newton, Bob Hope, Neil McCoy, Rob Schneider, Jessica Simpson, Tom Hanks, and Quincy Jones; Joyce Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; John Gottschalk, chairman, USO World Board of Governors; and Gen. John H. Tilelli, Jr., USA (Ret.), president, USO.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo
November 2, 2001

Dear _____ :

As required by section 1213 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Public Law 106-398, I transmit herewith a semiannual report on the contributions of European nations and organizations to the peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

This report, prepared by the Department of State, concludes that the Europeans have carried a significant portion of the aid-sharing burden in the region and that their commitment to reconstruction, humanitarian relief, and institution and peace-building has been a strong one. Continued attention and commitments of assistance from all donors remains crucial for medium- and long-term development in Kosovo.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Carl Levin, chairman, and John W. Warner, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; Bob Stump, chairman, and Ike Skelton, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.