

and give its advice and consent to ratification.

The White House,

GEORGE W. BUSH

September 3, 2002.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Amendments
September 3, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Transportation, and for International Assistance Programs.

These amendments continue my commitment to provide necessary resources to enhance transportation security, to assist Israel and the people of the West Bank and Gaza, and to fight the growing pandemic of HIV/AIDS among developing countries.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with her comments and observations.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 4. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters
September 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. It's been my honor to welcome the leadership of the United States Congress here, to welcome them back from the August recess. We talked about a variety of issues—talked about the defense appropriations bill and terrorism insurance and an energy bill, spent most of our time talking about a serious threat to the United States, a serious threat to the world, and that's Saddam Hussein.

One of the things I made very clear to the Members here is that doing nothing about that serious threat is not an option for the United States. I also made it very clear that we look forward to a open dialog with Congress and the American people

about the threat and that not only will we consult with the United States Congress—"we" being the administration—but that my administration will fully participate in any hearings that the Congress wishes to have on this subject, on the subject about how to make America a more secure country, how to best protect the American families in our country. At the appropriate time, this administration will go to the Congress to seek approval for—necessary to deal with the threat.

At the same time, I will work with our friends in the world. I've invited Prime Minister Blair to come to Camp David on Saturday, and he'll—he's coming. I've looked forward to talking with him about