

the deficit would have been bigger without the tax relief package.

The deficit is caused by the fact that revenues have not come in. And there's two things we can do about it: One, stimulate the economy to create more revenues; and two, hold down spending. And today we spent time here at the Cabinet talking about how we hold down spending. And

we hope the Congress gets that message as well.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations *November 13, 2002*

President Bush. The Secretary-General and I are going to have some opening statements, only statements. First, I do want to welcome the Secretary-General here. I'm grateful for your leadership at the United Nations. A while ago, the United Nations Security Council made a very strong statement that we, the world, expects Saddam Hussein to disarm for the sake of peace. And the U.N. stepped up to its responsibilities, and I want to thank you for that, Mr. Secretary-General. I appreciate your leadership.

I'm looking forward to our discussion. Of course, I'll remind the Secretary-General that our war against terror is a war against individuals whose hearts are full of hate. We do not fight a religion. As a matter of fact, by far the vast majority of American citizens respect the Islamic people and the Muslim faith. After all, there are millions of peaceful, loving Muslim Americans.

Some of the comments that have been uttered about Islam do not reflect the sentiments of my Government or the sentiments of most Americans. Islam, as practiced by the vast majority of people, is a peaceful religion, a religion that respects others. Ours is a country based upon tolerance, Mr. Secretary-General, and we respect the faith, and we welcome people of all faiths in America. And we're not

going to let the war on terror or terrorists cause us to change our values.

And so, Mr. Secretary-General, I'm honored that you're here at the Oval Office. I'm proud to call you friend, and welcome.

Secretary-General Annan. Thank you very much, Mr. President. If I may comment on the last point you raised, I share your view entirely that every region and people of every faith have also been victims of terrorists. This is a scourge that affects all of us, regardless of region or religion. And we need to stand together to defeat terrorism.

And this is where the work of the United Nations and effective implementation of this Resolution 1373 is absolutely crucial. We need to work to deprive terrorists of the opportunities by not giving them haven, by not giving them financial and logistical support. And I think the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council is doing a good job in trying to make sure we all work together on that.

With regards to the Iraq decision, I want to thank you, Mr. President, for working with the United Nations and the Council and working through the Council. And I remember when you came to the U.N. on the 12th of September, nobody knew which way you were going to go. And in my own speech before yours, I was pleading that

we go the multilateral route. And I think we were all relieved that we did—you did.

And I would want to say that the Council decision, which was unanimous, sent a powerful message that the entire international community would like to see the Security Council resolutions implemented.

Today I received a letter from the Iraqi Government accepting the resolution, saying that they would work with the resolution. And Mr. Blix and his team will go back. We expect them to get there on the 18th and actively begin their work. This

is a Chapter 7 resolution, and it must be implemented.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:24 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Secretary-General Annan referred to Hans Blix, Executive Chairman, United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Amendments *November 13, 2002*

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Department of Justice and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

In total, these amendments would not affect the budgetary resources proposed in my FY 2003 Budget.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Statement on Elections in Bahrain *November 14, 2002*

The United States welcomes Bahrain's first parliamentary elections in nearly 30 years. Bahrain is a close friend and an important example of a nation making the transition to democracy.

The national elections recently concluded promise to strengthen the establishment of representative institutions in Bahrain and to help meet the political aspirations of all

its citizens, including women who fully participated in the electoral process.

I strongly support the efforts that King Hamad and the people of Bahrain have undertaken to uphold democratic principles and the rule of law. The United States will continue to support Bahrain as it pursues these goals.