

of Iraq and to help protect the American homeland in this time of high alert.

I want to thank the veterans groups for their strong support, unwavering support, for this wartime supplemental, and I call upon the United States Congress to pass the supplemental as quickly as possible.

I also appreciate all the veterans are doing for America's military families in time of hardship. I appreciate your compassion. Across our country, local chapters of the American Legion, for example, are stepping forward to help those families in practical ways, from making household repairs to helping with child care. Members of the VFW and Auxiliary are sending care packages with baby supplies to military families. Operation Uplink program is helping thousands of service members keep in touch with their loved ones.

Both the American Legion and the VFW are working with the USA Freedom Corps on a project called "On The Home Front." This effort will match Americans who want to volunteer their times and skills with the military families who need help. Because of all this generosity, our men and women

serving overseas will know that their loved ones are not facing this time alone.

I want to thank the veterans groups for understanding the compassion needed to help those who are here, wondering and worrying about their loved ones overseas. The people who serve in the military are giving their best to this country, and we have the responsibility to give them our full support, our full support not only here in Washington, DC, but our support all across the country.

I want to thank each veteran here today and across our land for the lifetime of service you have given our Nation. I thank you for standing behind the men and women of today's Armed Forces as they fight for the liberty of an oppressed people, for the security of the United States and our friends and allies, and for the peace of the world. May God bless our troops.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:44 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Assistance to Azerbaijan March 28, 2003

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

On January 17, 2003, I exercised my authority to extend the waiver of section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, concerning assistance to Azerbaijan. In accordance with paragraph (g)(6) of the heading "Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union" in title II of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-115), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration that

concerns assistance provided pursuant to this waiver. As required, the report describes the status of:

- All training and assistance provided to the Government of Azerbaijan pursuant to the extension of the waiver of section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act;
- The military balance between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and the impact of U.S. assistance on that balance; and

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- Negotiations for a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the impact of U.S. assistance on those negotiations.

My Administration remains fully committed to continue working with the Congress and all concerned parties to bolster peace, prosperity, and freedom in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

### Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Chemical Weapons Convention Inspections During Fiscal Year 2001

March 28, 2003

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

Enclosed is a report prepared by my Administration covering Chemical Weapons Convention inspections performed within the United States, from October 1, 2000, to September 30, 2001. The report, which includes a classified addendum covering any delays or disruptions to inspections carried on outside the United States, is submitted pursuant to section 309 of the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, and Patrick J. Leahy, ranking member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Pat Roberts, chairman, and John D. Rockefeller IV, ranking member, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., chairman, and John Conyers, Jr., ranking member, House Committee on the Judiciary; and Porter J. Goss, chairman, and Jane Harman, ranking member, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

### Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Chemical Weapons Convention Inspections During Fiscal Year 2002

March 28, 2003

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

Enclosed is a report prepared by my Administration covering Chemical Weapons Convention inspections performed within the United States, from October 1, 2001, to September 30, 2002. The report, which includes a classified addendum covering

any delays or disruptions to inspections carried on outside the United States, is submitted pursuant to section 309 of the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998.