

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying Exports to the People's
Republic of China
October 22, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I hereby certify that the export to the People's Republic of China of two jet mills for fine grinding of friable or crystalline materials to be used in the manufacture of spandex fiber and semiconductor compounds and one spare beam centerline that will be exported for repair/replacement for the continuous operation of a cargo inspection system is not

detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attack on the Marine
Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon
October 23, 2008

Twenty-five years ago, a suicide bomb destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. We remember the 241 American marines, soldiers, and sailors who lost their lives in that attack, and we pay tribute to their families and loved ones. The U.S. forces in Lebanon were serving as part of the multinational force working to bring peace and security to that country, torn by years of civil war.

On the anniversary of this unconscionable attack, we honor the memory of those brave service men and women through our commitment to succeeding in the war on terror. We express our gratitude to those serving abroad to protect America and promote peace and freedom around the world. And we reiterate our strong support for the voices of moderation and justice in Lebanon.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying the Establishment of a
Registration and Monitoring System for Defense Articles Provided to Iraq
October 23, 2008

Dear _____ :

Pursuant to section 1228(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law 110–181 (NDAA),

I hereby certify that a registration and monitoring system for defense articles provided to the Government of Iraq or any

other group, organization, citizen, or resident of Iraq, meeting the requirements set forth in subsection 1228(c) of the NDAA, has been established.

Specifically, I certify that the registration and monitoring system herein referenced includes:

1. the registration of the serial numbers of all small arms to be provided to the Government of Iraq or to other groups, organizations, citizens, or residents of Iraq;
2. a program of end-use monitoring of all lethal defense articles provided to such entities or individuals; and
3. the maintenance of a detailed record of the origin, shipping, and distribution of all defense articles transferred under the Iraq Security Forces Fund or any other security assistance program to such entities or individuals.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Carl Levin, chairman, and John McCain, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Christopher J. Dodd, chairman, and Richard C. Shelby, ranking member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Ike Skelton, chairman, and Duncan Hunter, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services; and Howard L. Berman, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Remarks Following a Briefing at the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland *October 24, 2008*

I want to thank General Alexander for his hospitality to me and the Vice President and Director McConnell. We have been here at NSA, which is on the frontline of protecting the American people. Every time I come out here, I'm impressed by the caliber of people who work here, the amount of energy that goes into their jobs, and their deep desire to find an enemy and bring them to justice before they hurt us again.

Ever since 9/11, the people in this building have done what the country expects them to do, and that is to work as hard as necessary to help protect the United States of America. The work here at the

NSA is absolutely vital, and I wish all our citizens could meet the folks that work here and realize how smart they are, how capable they are, and how enthusiastic they are in doing their duty.

So, General, thank you for your hospitality. We've enjoyed coming out here, and appreciate the efforts you're putting into protecting the homeland.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. in the Operations Building. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander, USA, Director, National Security Agency.