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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 1987

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Mr. Robert Gates
DDI, CIA Headquarters
Room 7E32
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Bob:

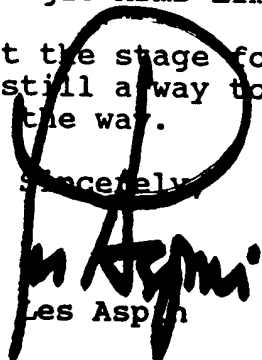
I wanted to fill you in on the highlights of this year's Defense Authorization Act which passed the House May 20. The bill meets two major criteria for an effective defense bill. It strengthens our overall defense, and it spends money wisely in a time of serious budget constraints.

The bill strengthens our defense by setting new priorities that emphasize a stronger conventional force. Resources would be shifted away from nuclear weapons toward conventional programs since our conventional forces are in greater need of help. A second shift would redirect spending away from research, development and procurement toward personnel and readiness. This would help boost our supply of readily-available personnel and weapons. And finally, the bill would increase spending for Army tank and helicopter programs, which provide vital support for ground forces.

The bill also contains four key arms control provisions which would:

- *ban practically all nuclear weapons tests, provided the Soviet Union observes the same restraint and agrees to the placement on its territory of monitoring equipment;
- *ban tests of Star Wars weapons that would violate the traditional interpretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty;
- *continue a moratorium on tests of the anti-satellite (ASAT) missile against target satellites; and
- *require the United States to resume adherence to the numerical limits on intercontinental missiles, bombers and missile subs contained in the 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II).

The House bill has set the stage for real progress toward a sound security policy. There's still a way to go before it becomes law, but I'll be pushing for it all the way.

Sincerely,

Les Aspin

