

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 8, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I hereby concur with the Congress in the designation of two provisions totaling \$100 million provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Bill, 2005 (H.R. 4818), as emergency requirements.

These funds are necessary to support the African Union security force in Darfur, as well as to construct a mail irradiation facility in Washington, DC. Additional information is set forth in the attached letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "George W. Bush", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

December 8, 2004

The President
The White House

On November 18, 2004, I sent a letter to the Congress stating that the Administration would concur with the Congress in the designation of two provisions included in Division D (the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill Title) and Division H (the Transportation, Treasury, Independent Agencies, and General Government Appropriations Bill Title) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818), as emergency requirements. Although these provisions were not originally requested as part of the President's FY 2005 Budget, a strong case exists for each of these expenditures to be designated as an emergency requirement, for the following reasons:

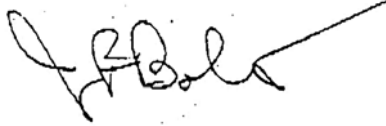
- \$93 million to support the African Union security force in Darfur. These funds would be used to provide emergency aid to the displaced civilian population and assure transportation, logistics, equipment and support for the African Union security forces and monitors engaged in the prevention of violence in the Darfur region. The needs on the ground are urgent and unanticipated.
- \$7 million for construction of a mail irradiation facility in Washington, D.C. Irradiation remains a critical component of the overall strategy to protect Federal facilities and employees from attacks through the mail using hazardous substances. Construction of a permanent facility would end the Postal Service's reliance on the current temporary, expensive, and time consuming irradiation process.

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, as amended by the Budget Enforcement Act, set annual discretionary spending limits, which expired at the end of FY 2002. That section included a provision that stated that the spending limits should be adjusted to reflect appropriations designated as emergency requirements by both the Congress and the President. On April 2, 2004, the Administration submitted to the Congress a legislative proposal, the Spending Control Act of 2004, which would restore key provisions of the Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act including continuing the discretionary spending limits and exempting mutually agreed upon emergency designations from these limits. In the absence of enactment of this or similar proposals, there currently are no statutory restrictions on emergency spending designations.

Consistent with the need for responsible spending restraint, the Administration will continue to urge the Congress to fully fund unavoidable obligations and not to include any emergency funding, including contingent emergency funding, unless mutually agreed upon in advance by both the Congress and your Administration.

I recommend that you concur with the designation of these provisions as emergency requirements, and sign the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a notification of your designation. No further congressional action will be required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bolten', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joshua B. Bolten
Director