

THE REQUEST AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S
COUNTERTERRORISM FUND

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

THE REQUEST AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE DEPART-
MENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S COUNTERTERRORISM FUND,
PURSUANT TO PUB. L. 106-554, AND PUB. L. 108-7



OCTOBER 1, 2003.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and
ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, September 30, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-554), and the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Public Law 108-7), I hereby request and make available \$38,100,000 for the Department of Homeland Security's Counterterrorism Fund. Of these funds, I hereby designate \$28,748,918 as an emergency requirement pursuant to Public Law 106-554.

These funds would allow the Department of Homeland Security to continue to improve the security at our Nation's ports by deploying radiation monitoring devices nationwide and strengthening the system that is used to identify potential threats posed by international cargo shipments and international passengers.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

[Estimate No. 20, 108th Cong., 1st Sess.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2003.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available immediately previously appropriated contingent funds for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These funds were made contingent upon your submission of a budget request to the Congress. In addition, a portion of the requested funds must be designated as an emergency requirement.

Your approval of this request would make available to DHS a total of \$38 million from its Counterterrorism Fund. Of this amount, you would need to designate \$29 million as an emergency requirement in accordance with P.L. 106-554. No further congressional action will be required in order to make the full amount available to DHS.

The funds requested in this transmittal would support deployment of radiation monitoring equipment at the Nation's ports, as well as provide enhancements to the system that targets high-risk international cargo and passengers for screening as they arrive in the United States. DHS's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP), which oversees these programs, will be unable to complete these critical programs without these additional funds.

The Counterterrorism Fund was originally established in the Department of the Treasury to support that agency's counterterrorism activities. Upon establishment of DHS, most of the balances in the Treasury Department fund were moved to the newly-created DHS Counterterrorism Fund.

Public Law 106-554, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, provided \$55 million in contingent emergency funding for the Treasury's Counterterrorism Fund. To date, \$19 million has been made available and spent. Of the unspent balances, \$7 million remains at the Department of the Treasury for support of future counterterrorism activities and \$29 million was transferred to DHS.

Public Law 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, provided an additional \$10 million in contingent funding to the Treasury's Counterterrorism Fund, all of which was later transferred to DHS. To date, none of those funds have been spent.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Homeland Security in recommending that you make the requested funds

available by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

JOSHUA B. BOLTEN,
Director.

Enclosure.

AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED MADE AVAILABLE BY THE
PRESIDENT

Department of Homeland Security:

Department of Management:

Counterterrorism Fund (P.L. 106-554)	\$28,748,918
Counterterrorism Fund (P.L. 108-7)	9,351,082

The Counterterrorism Fund was originally established in the Department of the Treasury to support that agency's counterterrorism activities. On March 1, 2003, most of the balances within the Treasury Department fund were transferred to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) pursuant to Section 1516 of the Homeland Security Act. Currently, \$7 million remains at the Department of the Treasury for support of future counterterrorism activities, while all other balances were moved to DHS.

P.L. 106-554, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, provided \$55 million for counterterrorism activities in the Department of the Treasury, contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the amount requested as an emergency requirement. Of this appropriation, \$19 million has been made available and spent. Of the unspent balances, \$7 million remains at the Department of the Treasury, as discussed above, and \$29 million is available to DHS. This request would make available to DHS the remaining \$29 million and has been designated by the President as an emergency requirement in accordance with P.L. 106-554.

P.L. 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, provided an additional \$10 million to support counterterrorism activities in the Department of the Treasury, to be made available contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress. None of these funds have been available to date, and all balances were transferred to DHS. This request would make \$9 million available to DHS.

Recent events have highlighted the vulnerabilities of the Nation's ports to terrorist attack or exploitation. DHS has the lead responsibility for ensuring that passengers and cargo passing through the ports are legitimate and do not pose a threat to the security of the Nation. This request would make available a total of \$38 million, of which \$13 million would be used to strengthen the Automated Targeting System, which identifies potential threats posed by cargo and passengers as they enter the country. The remainder, \$25 million, would be used for the deployment of radiation portal monitors that can detect nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon material, radiation dispersal devices (RDD), radiological material for use in con-

struction of an RDD, and other illegal or illicit radioactive materials.

