

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 25, 2003

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are troubled by reports that your administration has threatened Israel with cuts in loan guarantees as a result of its decision to construct a security fence along the border of the West Bank. It is time for your administration to stop putting pressure on a government dedicated to protecting its citizens, and focus rather on compelling the Palestinian Authority to marginalize Yasser Arafat and reign in the terror.

Speaking in the Rose Garden last year, you made meaningful change in the Palestinian leadership and a cessation of all violence a precursor to any further negotiation. The Palestinian leadership has failed to complete either of those changes: in recent months, Yasser Arafat has resumed control of the Palestinian security forces and Israelis have been the victims of numerous attacks.

That is why the pressure your administration is placing on the Israelis is misdirected. If the Palestinians would end the terror, Israel would not need the fence. Perhaps demanding meaningful changes from the Palestinians would be more productive than criticizing the Israelis for protecting themselves.

Sincerely,

