

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1994

Dear Mr. Leader:

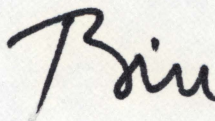
Thank you for your letter which expresses concern about the level of the defense budget and its adequacy to meet key national security objectives.

As you know, my Administration is currently in the final stages of developing the FY 1995-1999 defense budget. That process began last February when I submitted to the Congress an economic plan that reflected defense budget levels significantly reduced from those of the Cold War years. These were predicated on a new national security strategy directed towards meeting post-Cold War dangers and opportunities.

Secretary Aspin's Bottom-Up Review, completed this past summer, identified the specific forces and programs appropriate for the new strategy. Let me assure you that I am committed to supporting the military strategy and the force structure described in the Bottom-Up Review, as well as to maintaining the readiness of our armed forces.

I appreciate your concern and look forward to working with you in assuring a strong, ready military for the country.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510