

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET REND AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-01 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,doj,immig,illaln,fns13537  
data

TRANSCRIPT BY: FEDERAL NEWS SERVICE  
620 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20045

FEDERAL NEWS SERVICE IS A PRIVATE FIRM AND IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

COPYRIGHT 1994 BY FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORPORATION,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20045, USA NO PORTION OF THIS TRANSCRIPT MAY BE  
COPIED, SOLD, OR RETRANSMITTED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF  
FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORPORATION.

TO RECEIVE STATE, WHITE HOUSE, DEFENSE, BACKGROUND AND OTHER  
BRIEFINGS AND SPEECHES BY WIRE SOON AFTER THEY END, PLEASE CALL CORTES  
RANDELL AT 202-347-1400.

COPYRIGHT IS NOT CLAIMED AS TO ANY PART OF THE ORIGINAL WORK  
PREPARED BY A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICER OF EMPLOYEE AS A PART  
OF THAT PERSON'S OFFICIAL DUTIES.

-----

ATTY. GEN. REND: I'm pleased to be here today to announce this  
initiative with Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congressman Romano Mazzoli,  
Congresswoman Lynn Schenk, Congressman Bob Filner, Congressman Randy  
Cunningham and Congressman Duncan Hunter and I believe Senator Barbara  
Boxer will be joining us and I want you to know how much we appreciate  
everything that you have done in terms of working with us in this  
initiative. It has been extraordinarily helpful to us because I know  
how deeply you feel about it, visiting your border, and Congressman  
Mazzoli, you have just been splendid in terms of giving the wonderful  
advice along the way.

President Clinton pledged last July that America would not  
surrender her borders to those who would exploit our nation's  
tradition of compassion and justice and he promised to follow up with  
a constant, comprehensive response to immigration issues. Today, we  
are building on that commitment. The initiative I am announcing is a  
comprehensive, innovative response to critical needs in a number of  
key areas. It deals with first with the Southwest border both  
strengthening enforcement against illegal entry and by widening  
opportunities for legal crossings.

Next, it bolsters our efforts to deport criminal aliens. Third,  
it provides desperately needed resources to fix the nation's political

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-01 page# 2

asylum system. Fourth, it strengthens our commitment to the  
discourage the employment of undocumented workers while protecting  
workers rights. And finally, it establishes programs to encourage  
naturalization, the final step in the legal immigration process.

We began with a hard look at our Southwest border. I travelled  
to the San Diego border with Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer and  
together we saw the dangerous, high-stake battles waged by our border  
patrol agents day in and day out.

MOFE

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM.  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-02 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,dcj,immig,illaln,fns13537  
data

We saw the frustration of agents who arrest, book and return to Mexico hundreds of people each night only watch them return the next night or maybe the next. We saw agents working with radios that are not secure and equipment inferior to that used by smugglers. We saw trained law-enforcement personnel who should have been on the line, on the border, who were instead pecking out booking papers on manual typewriters, stacking up documents that will never be filed because of lack of staff and taking turns as mechanics, carpenters and radio operators.

Our strategy to control the border is deterrent through prevention. We want to stop the revolving door. We will start with the locations that demand our immediate attention. During this fiscal year, we will stabilize the El Paso environment and begin to establish a similar level of control in San Diego. These two sectors alone account for 65 percent of our apprehensions. Across the entire border, we will add advanced technology to identify immigration law violators, prosecute repeat offenders and mobilize effective responses to changing traffic patterns.

By the end of fiscal year 1995, we will have added 1,010 agents to the line. The 1,010 agents will be a combination of new hires and trained agents returned to law enforcement duties. Second, our immigration initiatives targets aliens who have committed crimes and who are now in our prisons and our jails. Working with state and local authorities, the Department of Justice will more rapidly identify criminal aliens and hold their deportation hearings in prisons so that we can immediately remove them at the end of their sentences. If this strategy works, we will expand our program in the states with the highest criminal alien population: California, Texas, Florida and Illinois. In addition, we will begin to respond rapidly to federal, state and local law enforcement information queries on criminals suspected of being aliens.

MORE

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET REND AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-03 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,doj,immig,illain,fnsl3537  
data

Our immigration initiative will thoroughly reform the existing asylum system. We will soon publish new regulations that will allow the Immigration and Naturalization Service to handle incoming cases promptly and decide the current backlog of cases. The first and foremost consideration in this reform is protection of legitimate refugees. The reforms will streamline the asylum-decision system. This initiative provides substantial resources for doubling the size of the asylum core and substantially increasing the number of immigration judges.

Employment has long been a magnet drawing people to come to this country illegally or violate their lawful status. Some of these people fall victim to exploitation. Efforts to remove the magnet of employment have raised concerns about the potential for discrimination against legal aliens and others with the right to work in this country. While working to reduce legal employment opportunities, we must ensure that workers' rights are fully protected. This initiative significantly expands INS's capability to verify work eligibility where employers prevent discrimination and target serious violators of the law. While assisting employers who want to comply with the law, INS will focus its enforcement on high-violator industries and employers who exploit illegal workers. The Department of Justice will -- also step up its program to educate employers about their responsibilities to comply with the law in non-discriminatory ways, and prosecute those who do discriminate.

Naturalization is the affirmation of our immigration process. We welcome immigrants who can make our nation stronger and become members of our national family. This initiative contains resources that will enable INS to handle a growing naturalization caseload, and it provides funding for community organizations to work in partnership with INS and public education and application assistance efforts.

In closing, let me emphasize that this administration is committed to safeguarding America's proud history of openness to newcomers. But we will not permit this cherished tradition to be jeopardized by weakness in enforcing our immigration laws. Today's initiative is an essential step in that direction, and I thank you all for being with me today to announce this and I'd like to welcome Senator Boxer as -- before you came in, I noted that you and Senator Feinstein had taken me to the San Diego border to see just what the situation was, and that was an extraordinarily helpful trip.

And I'd like now to introduce Doris Meissner, the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and a person who has been of invaluable counsel to me.

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DOMINIC MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-04 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,doj,immig,illain,fns13537  
data

MS. MEISSNER: Well, now I'm going to tell you about the dollars. Through the initiatives that the administration announced last July, the INS added \$172.5 million to the INS budget in FY '94. Today's announcement represents an enhancement of 368 million for FY 1995. That represents a 22 percent increase in the INS budget from 1994 to 1995.

INS has traditionally accomplished its mission through labor-intensive processes. Adding more personnel without giving them the tools and the infrastructure that they need to do an effective job. We will add officers, because more are needed. But we will no longer take piecemeal steps. We are giving our people technology, automation and an information network that links with other federal and state agencies.

Our strategy at the southwest border is deterrence through prevention, as the attorney general said. The idea is to bolster enforcement at the border so that people are prevented from entering illegally altogether. The special operation that we carried out in El Paso last fall showed that illegal entry can be deterred if we work smart. Our Southwest Border Plan results from a bottom-up review, as called for by the administration's National Performance Review. The system of border protection we are establishing will serve us well today and many years into the future.

First, the new personnel. We are hiring and will carefully train new border patrol agents. By the end of FY '95, we will effectively have 1,010 additional border patrol agents on the southwest border through the following steps: This year, we will add 620 border patrol agents, we are hiring and training 350 new agents and redirecting 270 agents who now perform support or other duties. Next year, in FY 1995, we will add 390 border patrol agents by hiring and training 150 new agents and returning 240 agents to productive law enforcement duties on the border.

As the attorney general said, we are assigning the agents this year to San Diego and El Paso. Those sectors represent 65 percent of the apprehension that we make. Next year, in FY '95, we will review the results of this to determine where the resources should be located to respond to shifts in the illegal traffic.

Finally, we will also be providing substantial fencing, lighting, encrypted radio, infrared equipment and other technologies to multiply that effectiveness of these human resources.

Now, comprehensive border strategy requires facilitation of legal

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-04 page# 2

crossing at our points of entry as well.

MORE

-

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
R1-03-05 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,dmj,immig,illaln,ins13537  
data

We will be adding 200 immigration inspectors. They, too, will be well equipped. They will use electronically linked databases with other agencies involved in the admissions process, especially the Customs Service and United States consulates abroad.

In all of this, the integrity of our officers is of the utmost importance. We are revising our training to emphasize ethics and civil rights. We are strengthening our internal disciplinary procedures and we are establishing a citizens advisory panel that will bring complaints to me and will open a dialogue between INS and the affected constituencies on integrity issues.

Now, where criminal aliens are concerned, the funding in this package for criminal aliens is \$55.2 million. In order to work effectively with criminal aliens, we need to have very full cooperation within the law enforcement community across state and federal lines. The personnel and the automated record systems we are proposing will help us to develop that cooperation. We will be making a \$27 million investment to add investigators and judges to help identify deportable aliens are in prisons and to issue deportation orders after they have hearings but before they complete their sentences. Another \$28 million will be going to capturing and identifying -- relaying identifying information to the FBI and to other federal databases. And, ultimately, we will have the potential to be able to link with such programs as handgun purchase checks.

Where political asylum reform is concerned, we will be publishing regulations. We will be putting \$64.1 million of this package into the political asylum system. We will be screening out boiler plate claims; we will be initiating enforcement action against those who prepare fraudulent claims; we will be doubling the asylum corps and we will have an asylum system that can, first and foremost, identify refugees, grant them protection, and then deal with the abuse of the asylum system after that.

In the employment opportunities area, employer enforcement, \$38.4 million of the package goes to help expand our capability to verify work eligibility. Part of that money, \$5 million, will be for the Justice Department for expanded education and prosecution efforts where employers are concerned. We will be focusing with \$23 million on high-violator industries, and with \$10 million we'll be expanding our telephone verification system.

In the naturalization arena, we will be having a \$30 million effort in this initiative.

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET REND AND INS COMMISSIONER DOMINIC MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-06 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,dof,immig,illaln,fnsl3537.  
data

Fifteen million dollars will be available for grants to communities and other community-based organizations to do public-outreach, provide language and civics instruction, and assist in the preparation of applications. We are examining our own procedures to lessen the intimidating nature of the current process and to promote the ease of applying. With \$2-1/2 million we will be providing an 800 number to disseminate information to the public; with the remaining \$12-1/2 million we'll streamline our processes and add the personnel that are needed to handle an increased caseload.

So those are the numbers in the initiative. The numbers combined with the change in processes that we are putting together amount, I believe, to a full reinventing of the INS, and that is what we're looking forward to.

Thank you very much.

ATTY GEN. REND: Thank you very much, commissioner, and I would like to commend everyone in the Immigration and Naturalization Service who has done such an extraordinary job in developing a real effective program for an agency that has tremendous burdens and has under very difficult circumstances done such a fine job in so many situations.

I'd like now to ask the members of Congress if they would like to make some remarks.

Senator Feinstein.

SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA): I want to thank the attorney general and the commissioner, first of all for caring enough to come and see for herself -- which she did this summer -- set in motion a reorganization process and a team to accomplish it, then wanting obviously to include the new commissioner of INS, and both of them for working out a plan which in essence says the time has come that we're going to enforce our borders in America. And from a state which has over half of the illegal immigrants in America as residents, it is coming none too soon.

I think this effort is a major step forward. I've convince, cajoled, we have discussed trying to get maximum bang for the buck. And I believe this does it. It restores a congressional base. It puts an emphasis on technology and modernization of a service that had been overlooked for a long period of time.

California does very well in this. And essentially under the plan announced today 602 real border patrol agents, agents, who weren't



NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DOMINIC  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-06 page# 2

on the line in 1993, will be added to the front lines of the Southwest  
border by the end of the calendar year. More than 71 percent of those  
agents -- the estimate is 430 -- will be assigned to the San Diego  
area, which is the area of the greatest border incursion in the United  
States.

MOFE

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-07 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,doj,immig,illaln,fnsl3537  
data

As a result, the number of agents on active enforcement duty actually on the line will increase by more than 40 percent in calendar year 1994. This is a major step forward, and I think that it is going to mean a better trained, a better equipped, and a much better organized and modernized Border-Patrol.

I was particularly grateful for the comments on improving legal immigration, because what we should be all about as a country is supporting legal immigration while stopping as much as we can the illegal immigration which presents so many problems. And I believe this plan does it. I'm happy to support it. And I believe that my state, Senator Boxer's and my state, is well provided for. So I say thank you, Attorney General, and thank you, Commissioner.

And I also want to thank the House delegation, particularly the delegation from the area of San Diego, who has worked very hard in getting this supplemental in the appropriation process early on for the 600 -- Lynn Schenk, Duncan Hunter, Bob Filner, others in the area. I want to say thank you very much to them, and I was pleased to be of help in appropriations in the Senate. Thank you.

ATTY GEN. RENO: Would you like to say -- Senator? Senator Boxer?

SEN BOXER: And Randy Cunningham also who's here.

SEN. FEINSTEIN: Sorry, Randy Cunningham.

SEN. BOXER: It's hard to be -- to remember all the names that played a role in this.

I'd just like to recall our trip to the border with Attorney General Reno, where Senator Feinstein was on one side and I was on the other. We were the long and short of the Senate. And we said to our attorney general, "We really need you." And what I really will never forget about that trip is when she turned to the INS, the Border Patrol people; she looked them in the eye, which she can do, and she said, "Tell me what you need." And they did. And she said, "Be more specific." And they were. And she said, "And if I get you that, will you do the job? Will you stop the bleeding at this border?" And they said, "We will." And she looked at them and said, "I'm going to hold you to that." So she is coming forward after really knowing what the problem is and seeing it firsthand.

MORE

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET REND AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-08 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,dof,immig,illaln,ins13537  
data

America is a great and glorious land. I speak as a first-generation American. What makes us great is our diversity, the chance at the American dream, but we must enforce our borders, period. And it is the responsibility of the federal government to do so. States like California are suffering mightily because this has not happened in the past. We cannot do it alone. And the thing again that stands out in my mind is those Border Patrol people saying, "Well, we really have X number of employees, but more than half of them are sitting behind the desks or are driving people around or are in the courts."

So here is a plan which utilizes those people, gets them out there, and I'm going to do all I can with my colleague Senator Feinstein and my good colleagues from the House to make sure that this -- very important priority of this administration becomes a reality.

Thank you, Madame Attorney General.

ATTY GEN. REND: Thank you, . . . .

A person who has labored long in this area.  
tremendous assistance to me, Congressman Mazzoli.

REP. MAZZOLI: Thank you.

Well, thank you, Madame Attorney General and Commissioner . . .  
Meissner.

I'm very pleased to join my colleagues here today at the announcement of this new initiative. As I mentioned to the Attorney General earlier this morning, I was very much impressed, and all of our subcommittee in the House was, when about a year ago I think this springtime, the attorney general came over to our committee and had an informal discussion with us about what her plans and what some of the problems were as we saw them to be. And I thought that openness, that responsiveness right at the very start of her term in office was very helpful to us and also very indicative of just how the administration would react to this problem.

And then it wasn't very long thereafter that we, many of us, were in the White House when Doris Meissner's nomination was announced by the president and the vice president, giving a very high profile to her, and she is a very outstanding professional, but to the issue of immigration. And I think that both Senator Feinstein and my friend from the House, Barbara Boxer, said it, that we know that this nation was created and founded and becomes more vibrant because of immigration, of people coming to our land. But we also know that the

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC. ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-08 page# 2

opportunities of keeping that front door open, which we know has to be kept open, is to close the back door through which people enter illegally.

So to keep the front door open, which we all very much want to do, we have to take steps along the lines announced today. I was very pleased to hear that there will be more Border Patrol, because you not only obviously have to retain control of your border, but one of the things that El Paso showed us, I think, is the fact that, when you keep people from coming in illegally, you drop off virtually to zero - all of the allegations, founded or unfounded, of mistreatment, of civil rights abuses, and all the other things that sometimes come from our agents being out in the dark in dangerous situations chasing people around.

MORE

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM.  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-09 page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,dcj,immig,illaln,fns13537  
data

So by keeping people out, you avoid those problems.

And, clearly, the employer sanctions, I mentioned to the attorney general and to Ms. Meisser this morning that I was pleased that as a response to making employer sanctions work administratively the Justice Department will reduce the amount of documentation which is permissible to be offered at the point of applying for a job. So it makes it easier on the employers, of whom most are honest and desire to obey the law but currently are confronted by literally hundreds of pieces of paper and documentation which confound them. So that will help employer sanctions to work. And for those who as pattern and project violate the law, ought to be sanctioned very much.

And we have talked at length about asylum. There's several bills pending, some of which I've had something to do with. But at the end of the day, if you have more people to adjudicate the cases more quickly, while retaining the fairness and due process, you automatically eliminate most of the problem with asylum and you prevent the system from being gamed, prevent the system from being abused, and we all know too well how that has been documented over the years.

So let me just at this point again suggest, as my colleagues have already, and my other colleagues will later, that it's my intention and our intention to work very closely with you, Madam Attorney General, and with you, Ms. Meissner, to see this thing to fruition to, working together, come up with a serious system to enforce our borders but, at the same time, an immigration system that recognizes that it helps and has helped America to be what it is today.

So I thank you and I wish you good luck.

ATTY GEN. RENO: Thank you. I would like to call on Congressman Hunter and Congressman Cunningham because their efforts in these days of developing this whole plan shows how important it is for us all to work together. And I'm just deeply appreciative of your both being here and would like to invite you to say something.

REP. RANDY CUNNINGHAM (R-CA): Duncan, lets me talk first. He knows I won't get a chance if I don't' (Laughter.)

MORE

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET REND AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994  
RI-03-10 page# 1

dest=notvpcj,sjd,dcj,immig,illaln,fnsl3537  
data

But I want to thank -- and I think there's some things that's  
noteworthy here besides what's been discussed.

First of all, as a sophomore and as a member of Congress, you  
don't know how it makes your heart soar like an eagle to be able to  
work bipartisan on an issue that is supported. You see members  
represented from the White House, commissioner, attorney general,  
members of the San Diego delegation, both our senator, and that's the  
way it should be. And when I see the attorney general down on the  
border riding around in a pretty beat-up pickup, getting thrown  
around, and then she comes back and reads intrusion tactics of  
Stonewall Jackson to formulate a plan of -- a comprehensive plan, I  
think that's noteworthy.

We have some of the finest law enforcement agencies I think in  
the country and should serve as a milestone for the rest of the  
country from our San Diego P.D. to Sheriff's Department to Gus  
Delavina (sp), who's head of the Border Patrol down on the border  
itself. But they have been undermanned, and they're fighting a  
battle. I would like to thank and laud the president for --

(Audio break.)

REP. DUNCAN HUNTER (R-CA): (In progress) -- and for looking at  
our goal. And I think certainly the attorney general and the  
administration have commenced in a very important campaign for the  
American people. Ingham and I and  
Lynn Schenk co-authored the amendment last summer, we put down the  
number "600 new agents" from the House side. And we didn't do that  
because we thought that was the total number of agents that we needed,  
we did it because it was the number of agents that the academy could  
possibly process in one year. So it wasn't intended to be a ceiling.  
And I know when Senator Feinstein fought for this with Barbara Boxer  
and came up with a counterpart in the Senate and really led that  
fight, they similarly put down "600 agents" because that was the  
maximum number of agents that the Border Patrol Academy could process  
in one year.

So we know that it's going to take more. And we know that we're  
getting some 350 uniformed agents this year along with office  
personnel to free up other agents. But I think it's also important to  
look at the goal.

NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO AND INS COMMISSIONER DORIS  
MEISSNER, TOPIC: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM,  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT / THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994-  
PI-03-11-E page# 1

dest=notvpol,sjd,doj,immig,illain,ins13537--  
data

The goal is -- and the American people I think will hold us all to --  
this goal -- is to establish a border that forces people to come in  
the front door through the legal entry if they want to enter the  
United States. It's that simple.

We have a 2,000-mile southern border going from San Diego, -  
California to Brownsville, Texas. That border consists of 12 -  
smugglers' routes. There's a smuggler route everywhere where you have  
a large population on each side of the border, where it's Tijuana-San  
Diego, Calexico-Mexicali, and on and on, all the way to Brownsville-  
Matamoros. We need to have about two border patrolmen, in my  
estimation, every several hundred yards - Now that amounts, on three  
shifts to the day, to about 50 agents in these smuggler corridors per  
mile. That averages out -- or totals up to some 8,000 border patrol  
agents. We also will need a force of about 1,000 to have reaction  
forces for times when banzai attempts are made by the smugglers to  
force large numbers of people across at one time. And you'll also  
need about a thousand agents -- and these are uniformed field agents --  
to handle the remote areas of the border, not just these smuggling  
corridors that total about 165 miles. You've got another 1,800 miles  
or so of remote area. So if you have a thousand agents for that,  
thousand agents for reaction force and 8,000 agents on the line, --  
need about 10,000 agents, in my estimation.

And I very strongly applaud what the attorney general has done in -  
starting what she appropriately calls this campaign. And I applaud  
Barbara Boxer, incidentally, for working this idea of using National  
Guardsmen also to free-up line agents -- very important. But the goal -  
that we need to look at, that the American people have set for us, is  
to make that border strong, and that's going to require about 10,000  
agents or a little more. We need to do that. I want to applaud the  
attorney general and all my colleagues. Senator Feinstein waged a  
great fight -- Barbara Boxer, Lynn Schenk, Duke Cunningham, Bob  
Filner. It's a wonderful campaign, I'm glad we started it.

Thank you.

---END OF TODAY'S COVERAGE