



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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Office of the Commissioner

425 I Street NW  
Washington, DC 20536

August 15, 2002

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It has been an honor to serve you and the American people as Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service during the past year. Your leadership during this critical time in American history has been inspirational and comforting. I am confident that history will record you as one of America's great Presidents. To have been a small part of that history is an opportunity for which I will be forever grateful. I am also grateful for the personal kindnesses you have extended to me.

Since early July, I have been in discussions with members of your senior staff and with the Attorney General regarding my desire to return to private life. At the request of Clay Johnson and Attorney General Ashcroft, I have not set a specific date for my departure. Assuming that the legislative process continues on its projected schedule, and if you so desire, I presently contemplate remaining as Commissioner through the passage of the bill creating the Department of Homeland Security, and for a reasonable period thereafter to assist with the merger of the INS into the new department. In any event, we have agreed that I will be able to depart no later than December 31, 2002. This letter is to formally notify you of my intentions and the understanding that I have reached with Clay and the Attorney General.

Although I could not have imagined the events of September 11 and the dramatic changes visited upon the Immigration and Naturalization Service, I have done my best to continue making progress toward the goals of restructuring the agency and reducing backlogs while responding to the call to arms in the war on terrorism. I believe that the record will indicate that we have made substantial progress toward those goals.

Linda and I want you and Mrs. Bush to know that you are constantly in our prayers as you lead our great nation. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully yours,

James W. Ziglar