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09/12 - Bicameral/Bipartisan Meeting re: WTC (World Trade Center)/Pentagon

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Wednesday, September 12, 2001

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cabinet Room

Nicholas E. Calio

I. PURPOSE

To update the Congressional Leadership on developments related to yesterday's events.

II. BACKGROUND

You will participate for only the first 30 minutes of this meeting. During the first half of the meeting you can brief the Leadership on any new developments and gauge Congressional reaction to yesterday's events.

For the second half of the meeting, the Cabinet Members present will brief the Members in more detail about what their agencies already have done and are prepared to do to respond to yesterday's tragedy.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Attachment A

IV. PRESS PLAN

Press at the Top.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Members of Congress are greeted in the West Wing Lobby at 11:15 a.m. by the Office of Legislative Affairs and escorted to the Cabinet Room.

VI. REMARKS

Attachment B

**CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETING
PARTICIPANTS LIST**

Wednesday, September 12, 2001
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The President
The Vice President

John Ashcroft, Attorney General
Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Transportation
Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Other Agencies

Joseph M. Allbaugh, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Senate

Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD), Majority Leader
Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), Majority Whip
Senator Trent Lott (R-MS), Republican Leader
Senator Don Nickles (R-OK), Assistant Republican Leader

House

Representative Dennis Hastert (R-IL), Speaker of the House
Representative Dick Armev (R-TX), Majority Leader
Representative Tom DeLay (R-TX), Majority Whip
Representative Dick Gephardt (D-MO), Minority Leader
Representative David Bonior (D-MI), Minority Whip

The White House Staff

Andrew H. Card, Chief of Staff
Karl Rove, White House Senior Advisor
Karen Hughes, Counselor to the President
Joshua B. Bolten, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
Condoleezza Rice, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Steve Hadley, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor
Nicholas E. Calio, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
Ari Fleischer, Assistant to the President and White House Press Secretary
Jack Howard, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
Ziad Ojakli, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
David W. Hobbs, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

Lewis Libby, Chief of Staff to the Vice President
Nancy Dorn, Assistant to the Vice President for Legislative Affairs

REMARKS FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETING

- I thought it was important that I bring together the Congressional Leadership as quickly as I could.
- Thank you for your strong words of support. Last night's event on the Capitol steps sent a powerful message of unity and determination in the face of unspeakable evil to the American people and to the world at large.
- Now more than ever we need to stand together not just as leaders, but as Americans. We have a lot to do, and we need to do it together.
- The functions of our government continue without interruption. As I said in my remarks last night, I intend to deploy the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement agencies to find those responsible and bring them to justice.
- I can only stay for the first part of this meeting. I hope you'll understand that there are a lot of time sensitive matters that require my immediate attention.
- The other members of my Cabinet here are fully prepared to report to you on what steps their departments have already taken, and what else they plan to do to respond to yesterday's tragedy. I think you'll find it to be an impressive array of services and resources.
- Our Administration stands ready to brief you and your Members on how we are responding to yesterday's tragedy.
- Again, thanks for coming down. I can stay for a few minutes but I would like to get your thoughts and how Congress is likely to react.