Concerning Border Control and Homeland Security

Will America survive its open border?

Our government has little or no idea who's coming into America

How can America protect itself from a massive future terrorist attack if it has absolutely no idea who is coming into America? <u>America's borders are a virtual open door, in which terrorists and the world's deadliest criminals can come and go at will</u>.

An estimated 3,000,000 people illegally slip into America every year by crossing the Mexican border. That's enough to fill 22,000 Boeing 737 airliners, or 60 flights every day. Our government has little or no idea who many of these people are. It may even be easier to get across the Mexican border into the U.S. today than before the 9/11 attacks. [Source: TIME, September 19, 2004]

It's estimated that 190,000 people illegally enter the U.S. through Mexico from such terrorist-producing nations as **Afghanistan**, **Iran**, **Iraq**, **Egypt**, **Sudan**, **Bulgaria**, and **Russia**. If just a few of these are **al Qaeda** operatives or terrorists, this would be enough to plan and implement a catastrophic attack with a Weapon of Mass Destruction.

Al Qaeda operatives and other terrorists may be able to get across Canadian bor-

TIME *Magazine's September 2004 cover outlining the severe crisis facing America because of its open borders.*

der even easier. Canada's immigration laws are extremely lax. It's very easy for al Qaeda operatives to establish themselves in Canada first before slipping into the United States. Canada has shown little interest in the terror threat to the U.S. Al Qaeda cells are reported to be operating relatively freely in Canada.

At present, only 500 U.S. border control agents monitor the 6,000 mile U.S.-Canadian border (compared to 9,000 U.S. agents patrolling the border with Mexico). The U.S.-Canadian border includes thousands of miles of forest and mountains without a single check-point, law enforcement official, or human of any kind for as far as the eye can see. We don't hear as much about this threat because we don't see the vast numbers of illegal aliens streaming in from Canada that we see from Mexico. But the U.S.-Canadian border is about three times longer than Mexico's border with the U.S. Other than check points on major highways, there's essentially nothing to stop anyone who wants to from simply walking from Canada into the United States undetected.

A Deadly Threat to America

According to a report by investigative reporter Bill Gertz of THE WASHINGTON TIMES, "A key al Qaeda terrorism suspect was in Canada looking for nuclear material for a 'dirty bomb.' Adnan El Shukrijumah is being sought by the FBI and CIA in connection with a plot to detonate a dirty bomb — a conventional explosive laced with radioactive material. According to an FBI informant, El Shukrijumah was spotted last year in Hamilton, Ontario, posing as a student at McMaster University, which has a 5-megawatt research reactor. U.S. officials believe El Shukrijumah, whose photograph was posted on the FBI's Web site in March, was in Hamilton trying to obtain radioactive material." The Gertz report continues: "He is believed to be part of an al Qaeda cell in Canada and the United States that was planning a dirty-bomb attack . . . U.S. intelligence officials said earlier this year that al Qaeda planned to detonate a dirty bomb inside the United States. " [Source: THE WASHINGTON TIMES, October 17, 2003]

TIME magazine reported in its November 22, 2004 issue that **al Qaeda** also has plans to smuggle nuclear material into the United States through Mexico, if it hasn't already done so. Here's how TIME describes the threat:

> *"A key **al Qaeda** operative seized in Pakistan recently offered an alarming account of the group's potential plans to target the U.S. with weapons of mass destruction, senior U.S. security officials tell TIME. Sharif al-Masri, an Egyptian who was captured in late August near Pakistan's border with Iran and Afghanistan, has told his interrogators of 'al Qaeda's interest in moving nuclear materials from Europe to either the U.S. or Mexico," according to a report circulating among U.S. government officials. Masri also said **al Qaeda** has considered plans to 'smuggle nuclear materials to Mexico, then operatives would carry material into the U.S.'"*

> *"Masri's account, though unproved, has added to already heightened U.S. concerns about Mexico. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge met publicly with top Mexican officials last week to discuss border security and smuggling rings that could be used to **slip al Qaeda terrorists into the country**. Weeks prior to Ridge's lightning visit, U.S. and Mexican intelligence conferred about reports from several al Qaeda detainees indicating the potential use of Mexico as a staging area 'to acquire end-stage chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material.'"*

In July of 2004, U.S. military veteran Glenn Spencer brought a simulated **Weapon of Mass Destruction** (WMD) over the border not just once, but twice. The first time, he didn't announce it, but the second time he publicly advertised when he would bring it across. And he did so successfully. Spencer and his group performed the mission to show how easily terrorists can bring a real WMD into the U.S. Spencer's men carried the simulated WMD across the Mexican border to a pick-up point five miles north to a main highway. From there, they were picked up and walked right up to the capitol steps in Phoenix, Arizona. Not once were they stopped.

Al Qaeda operatives and other terrorists may be able to get across the U.S.-Canadian border even easier. The U.S.-Canadian border is about three times longer than Mexico's border with the U.S. Other than on the major highways, there's virtually no border security preventing anyone who wants to from simply walking from Canada into the U.S. undetected. The U.S.-Canadian border includes thousands of miles of forest and mountains without a single check-point, law enforcement official, or human of any kind for as far as the eye can see.

Slow-Motion Terrorism

But terrorism does not just come from al Qaeda and Muslim extremists. Many of America's most violent criminals are crossing America's vast borders illegally.

In Los Angeles, 95 percent of all outstanding warrants for homicide (which total 1,200 to 1,500) are for illegal aliens. Up to two-thirds of all fugitive felony warrants (17,000) are for illegal aliens.

A confidential California Department of Justice study reported in 1995 that 60 percent of the bloody 18th Street Gang in California is illegal (estimated membership: 20,000). The gang collaborates with the Mexican Mafia on drug distribution schemes, extortion, drive-by assassinations, and is responsible for an assault or robbery every day in Los Angeles County.

More than ninety of our brave men and women who patrol our borders have lost their lives in the line of duty attempting to apprehend illegal aliens coming across our border.

Incredibly, our government is allowing more than half a million illegal aliens who have been convicted of additional crimes to remain in the U.S. rather than deporting them.

In cities where crimes committed by illegal aliens is highest, the police are often barred by local or state law from using their immigration status to arrest them. In Los Angeles, for example, dozens of gang members from a ruthless Salvadoran prison gang have snuck back into the city after having been deported for such crimes as murder, shootings, and drug trafficking. But if an LAPD officer arrests these known criminals for immigration law violations, it is the officer who will be punished as a criminal — for violating the LAPD's "Special Order 40" against enforcing immigration law.

The LAPD's ban on immigration law enforcement is replicated in immigrant-heavy localities across the country — in **New York**, **Chicago**, **Austin**, **San Diego**, and **Houston**, for example. These so-called "sanctuary policies" generally prohibit a city's employees, including the police, from reporting immigration violations to federal authorities.

These "sanctuary" laws show the political clout the Immigrant Lobby. So powerful is the Immigrant Lobby (spearheaded by the ACLU and similar "public interest" law groups) that police officials fear even mentioning the illegal alien crime epedemic.

Here's how a report in TIME magazine (September 19, 2004 issue) describes the crisis:

> *"Tens of thousands of criminals, quite possibly hundreds of thousands, treat the southern border as a revolving door to crimes of opportunity. The situation is so out of control that of the 400,000 illegal aliens who have been ordered to be deported, 80,000 have criminal records—and the agency in charge, the Homeland Security Department, does not have a clue as to the whereabouts of any of them, criminal or non-criminal, <u>including those from countries that support terrorism</u>.*
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> *What's more, those figures are growing. Every day, prisons across the U.S. release alien convicts who have completed their court-ordered sentences. In many cases, the INS has filed detainers, meaning the prisons are obliged to hold the individuals until they can be picked up by immigration agents and returned to their native countries. But state law-enforcement authorities are not permitted to keep prisoners beyond their original sentence. When Homeland Security agents fail to show up promptly, which is often, the alien convicts are released back into the community. In addition to all these, at least 4 million people who arrived in the U.S. legally on work, tourist or education visas have decided to ignore immigration laws and stay permanently. Again, Homeland Security does not have the slightest idea where these visa scofflaws are.*

The government's record in dealing with the 400,000 people it has ordered to be deported is dismal. A sampling of cases last year by the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that of <u>illegal aliens from countries supporting terrorism who had been ordered to be deported, only 6% of those not already in custody were actually removed. Of 114 Iranians with final orders for removal, just 11 could be found and were deported. Of 67 Sudanese with final-removal orders, only one was deported. And of 46 Iraqis with final-removal orders, only four were sent packing</u>. All the rest, presumably, were living with impunity somewhere in the U.S.

Those statistics tell only part of the story. Most people charged with an immigration-law violation do not even bother to show up for a court hearing. Imagine for a moment a majority of people charged with a crime in state or federal courts flouting the indictment or charge and refusing to appear in court. They would be swiftly arrested.

But immigration law marches to a different drummer. Most illegals, including those with arrest records, are not jailed while awaiting a hearing. Rather, the immigrants are released on their promise to return. They don't. And the odds are they won't be found. The OIG investigation revealed that of 204 aliens ordered to be removed in absentia, only 14 were eventually located and shipped out."

Mexican government encourages illegal flow across U.S. border

A colorful new comic book with advice for migrants is the latest tool the Mexican government is giving out to illegals headed for the United States. Mexico's *Guide for the Mexican Migrant* is published by Mexico's Foreign Ministry. Dramatic drawings show undocumented immigrants wading across a river, running from the U.S. Border Patrol and crouching near a hole in a border fence.

On other pages, migrants hike through a desert with rock formations reminiscent of Arizona and are caught by a stern-faced Border Patrol agent. "This guide is intended to give you some practical advice that could be of use if you have made the difficult decision to seek new work opportunities outside your country," the book says. In the section on crossing rivers, it notes, "Thick clothing increases your weight when wet, and this makes it difficult to swim or float." On crossing the desert, it says, "Try to walk during times when the heat is not as intense" and says migrants should follow power lines or train tracks if they get lost."

Mexican President Vicente Fox is actively encouraging Mexico's migration to the U.S. He is now urging U.S. businesses as well as U.S. city and state governments to accept as

legal identification a card called a "matricula consular," which is issued by the Mexican government. The "matricula consular" card allows illegals to secure driver's licenses and other forms of identification in the U.S.

As a result of pressure from President Fox, even the U.S. government, at various levels, accepts the "matricula consular" card as *de facto* proof of legal residence in the U.S. But the "matricula consular" database is controlled by the Mexican government and cannot be accessed by U.S. authorities. In Mexico, the "matricula consular" card is rarely used as an ID. No major Mexican bank accepts it. Mexico's official ID is the Mexican voter registration card.

One reason the Mexican government actively promotes migration to the U.S. is because it generates an enormous infusion of American dollars into Mexico's economy. The $13 billion a year sent back to Mexico represents the third largest source of revenue for Mexico's economy, trailing only oil and manufacturing. (Source: TIME magazine September 19, 2004)

The U.S. Government slow to defend America's borders

There are 20 other states which require no proof of legal residence for a driver's license: Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

In Los Angeles "Special Order 40" prohibits cooperation between the police and immigration authorities, making Los Angeles a haven for illegal alien criminal gangs. New York, Chicago and other major U.S. cities have the same policy.

On the rare occasions illegal aliens are apprehended, they are often released under orders from immigration authorities. Often they are promised that they will not be deported.

Since the 9/11 attacks on America, illegal immigrants have actually gained more protections under U.S. law, and in some instances have even more protections that legal American citizens. For example, it is against the law for an American citizen to refuse to identify themselves if they are asked to do so by a law enforcement officer. Yet every day, law enforcement releases illegal aliens back into the population after only a brief detention even though illegal aliens have no valid ID and are criminals by definition.

Although Mexico is a party to the North American Free Trade Agreement, it has done little or nothing to raise its standards for trucks. The trucks they send onto American highways are seldom inspected and are driven by unlicensed drivers. These Mexican trucks are routinely overloaded and often carry unlisted cargo, including illegal aliens, drugs, and terrorists, possibly carrying a **Weapon of Mass Destruction**. Moreover, American authorities inspect less than one (1%) percent of all trucks entering the U.S.

We have a National Guard. We can find National Guardsmen patrolling our nation's airports. But the National Guard is not used where it is needed most, to guard America's borders.

Law enforcement and government security officials are barred by law from using common sense methods (including "profiling") to identify the most likely terrorists. As a result, Middle Eastern males between the ages of 17 and 40 have no more risk of being searched by airport security than 80-year-old women with their grandchildren. "Profiling" has been called a "racist" practice by some civil liberties advocates. But in truth profiling is a perfectly valid law enforcement tool that takes into account many factors, including the individual's age, gender and personal appearance in determining whether a closer look at the person in question might be warranted.

Why not build a fence along the U.S.-Mexican border? It would be cheap and quickly pay for itself, and at the same time will help defend the lives of over-worked and under-staffed U.S. Border control agents who risk their lives, day and night, to stem the tide of illegal entry into the U.S. America's southern border with Mexico is 1,951 miles long. For the U.S. to build a fence along the entire U.S.-Mexican border would cost about $4.4 billion. This is a simple defense the U.S. can easily afford. For perspective, it would only amount to . . .

- 3.2 percent of what is spent on U.S. highway construction each year. [Bureau of Transportation Statistics, National Transportation Statistics 2003, March 2004. Table 1-5.]
- 0.9 percent of the defense budget ($452 billion in Fiscal Year 2004)
- 0.15 percent of the U.S. Federal budget ($2.3 trillion in FY2004)

Conclusion

Every nation has a right and a duty to secure its borders. A nation's borders are what make a nation. Securing America's borders is a simple, relatively inexpensive task. And it would make the job of protecting America's Homeland infinitely easier.

But America's political leaders in both major have shown a lack of political courage to do what is required to secure our nation's borders.

As a result, even the relatively lax laws we have in place aimed at controlling our borders and slowing illegal immigration are largely ignored. In other words, short-term political interests of politicians are trumping government's #1 responsibility, and that's to protect its citizens from an obvious and gathering deadly terrorist threat. We cannot win the war on terror is we have no idea who's coming into our country.

By refusing to secure America's borders, when it's so easy to do so, Washington shows it's really not serious about fighting and winning the war on terror.

Key Legislative Initiatives
to Secure America's Borders and Strengthen Homeland Security

- **Federal employees could not accept Matricula Consular cards as ID.**
- **Illegal aliens would be subject to expedited removal, avoiding frivolous delay proceedings which often take years.**
- **Use of a revoked visa would allow deportation.**
- **Sets National Drivers' License standards for all states**
- **Establishes an interstate drivers' license database to avoid duplication and fraud**
- **Requires a birth/death records system be kept to avoid granting false identities.**

The Enormous Challenge to Secure the 10,000 Miles of America's Land Borders