



DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20223

January 27, 2003

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

2003 will prove to be a historic year for the United States Secret Service, as we transition from our home for the last 137 years, the U.S. Department of Treasury, to the new Department of Homeland Security. We will continue to serve the American people as we have throughout our history, with distinction and honor.

Both the President and Congress have recognized the invaluable contributions the Secret Service has made, and will continue to make, to the defense of our homeland. Our role within the new department provides our agency with a platform to continue our excellence in protecting our nation's leaders and financial payment systems.

This is also a historic time for me, as I assume leadership of this great agency. At no point in history has the Secret Service been asked to do more than what is asked of us now, and at no point have we been better prepared to do so. I believe there are no more important missions than those of the Secret Service and no finer people in all of law enforcement.

As a nation, we look to the symbols of American freedom to help us reflect on the past and to show us the future. The Secret Service has a unique history in protecting many of those symbols we hold most dear – the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the White House. The men and women of the United States Secret Service are honored to be a part of this nation's strong tradition and each day strive towards the goal of being worthy of trust and confidence.

W. Ralph Basham

