

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Boland:

I have received your letter about your son, Stephen. My heart goes out to you over the loss you have suffered because of the vicious terrorist attack on Pan Am Flight 103. I know what a terrible void his death has created in the lives of those who loved him, who admired him and knew what an outstanding potential he had for a successful future.

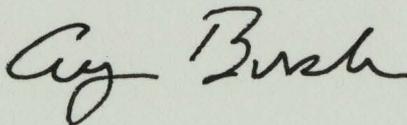
After meeting Monday with the representatives of families of those who died on that fateful day, I now have an even better understanding of the pain and anguish that each of you feels. What troubles me the most is how insensitive the response to you by various officials may have seemed at times. I can assure you this was not intended.

I have directed Secretary of Transportation Samuel Skinner to take whatever steps are necessary to enhance the future travel safety of American citizens, including close cooperation with international aviation authorities. Also, I want to assure you that, from the moment this terrorist act occurred, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and United States intelligence agencies have all been working vigorously to identify the cowardly murderers responsible for this crime. We will not rest until they are brought to justice.

I know that no action by this government can restore the loss you have suffered. I also know that no guarantees are possible when dealing with a menace like terrorism. Our hope, though, is that stern measures can prevent other Americans from feeling the same pain you have felt.

Barbara sends her deepest sympathy along with mine. We will keep you and your family in our hearts and prayers. God bless you.

Sincerely,



Mr. and Mrs. John Boland
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Nashua, New Hampshire 03060