

A NATION CHALLENGED: NOTEBOOKS; More Eyes Toward Canada

The New York Times

October 10, 2001 Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

Section: Section B; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 14

Length: 284 words

Byline: By AL BAKER

Body

The number of federal agents patrolling the northern border of the United States would triple to 7,689 from 2,563 under Attorney General John Ashcroft's antiterrorism legislation, which was drafted after the Sept. 11 attacks and is expected to pass in Congress this week.

Senator Charles E. Schumer of New York said the provision would provide \$609 million for new Customs, Border Patrol and Immigration and Naturalization Service personnel to patrol along the world's longest nonmilitarized boundary, between the United States and Canada.

It would also provide \$100 million for things like biometric surveillance systems, and \$2 million for an improved fingerprinting system.

Senator Schumer said the increase struck a balance between tightened security and the free flow of an estimated \$1.4 billion in daily cross-border business between the two nations.

"The northern border has been like a sieve and if you are a bad, smart person, and want to come into the United States, you know that you should go north and not south," Senator Schumer said.

New York shares about 400 miles of border with Canada. Three upstate cities, Buffalo, Champlain and Alexandria Bay, are respectively the second, fourth and 10th busiest land border crossings in the country, an aide to Senator Schumer said.

The Canadian border is not unknown to terrorists. Participants in the World Trade Center bombing eight years ago appeared to have used Canadian immigration papers to gain access to the United States. Ahmed Ressam, who was arrested by United States customs officials in December 1999 with a carload of explosives and convicted, had tried to enter Washington State by a ferry from Victoria, British Columbia.

AL BAKER

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

A NATION CHALLENGED: NOTEBOOKS; More Eyes Toward Canada

Subject: BORDER CONTROL (99%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (91%); IMMIGRATION (90%); LEGISLATION (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); COUNTERTERRORISM (90%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (90%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (78%); SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACK (77%); TERRORISM (77%); BOMBS & EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (77%); BOMBINGS (77%); EXCISE & CUSTOMS (76%); BIOMETRICS (75%); FINGERPRINTING (75%); ARRESTS (74%); SURVEILLANCE (72%); SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY (55%)

Organization: US CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION (76%)

Industry: FERRIES (71%)

Person: CHARLES SCHUMER (89%); ASHCROFT, JOHN (ATTY GEN); BAKER, AL

Geographic: NEW YORK, USA (92%); WASHINGTON, USA (79%); BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA (57%); UNITED STATES (95%); CANADA (94%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); NEW YORK CITY; WASHINGTON (DC); UNITED STATES; CANADA

Load-Date: October 10, 2001

End of Document