

# **INS CHIEF CALLS FOR CHANGES MORE GUARDS, BRIGHTER LIGHTS ON THE MEXICAN BORDER COULD REDUCE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, SHE TELLS LAWYERS.**

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## **Body**

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**Brighter lights** along crucial U.S. **border** areas and 400 **more guards in** San Diego and El Paso, Texas, could help stop **illegal immigration** to the United States, the commissioner of the **Immigration** and Naturalization Service **told** a legal conference Friday.

"We need to reform the asylum system.

The current system does not work," Doris Meissner said **in** a speech at the American **Immigration Lawyers** Association annual meeting.

Each year about 300,000 people enter the United States illegally, according to **INS** figures. Meissner's appointment by the Clinton administration marked a concerted effort to streamline a system plagued by social and legal pitfalls. Additional funding to improve the **immigration** system is being reviewed by Congress. A proposed \$327 million increase would add agents, improve **lighting** along key U.S. **border** areas and emphasize deterrence overseas, Meissner said. With **more** equipment, technology and money, Meissner hopes to ensure Americans that U.S. **borders** would block **illegal** immigrants.

Meissner cited San Diego and El Paso as areas where entry must be prevented. "We're simply waiting for the (congressional) appropriation. The personnel have already been selected," said Meissner.

"This starts with a concentration on the Southwest **border**, and with preventing **illegal** entry **in** the first place," Meissner said. "The Southwest **border** part of our plan is an effort at doing our work much **more** intelligently."

Meissner also said she was concerned with improving the naturalization process for legal immigrants.

"One year from now we would be able to receive electronic filings," said Meissner, receiving a strong round of applause from the **lawyers**.

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