



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

May 9, 2004

Dear Mr. President,

As you know, on Wednesday May 5th I gave you my letter of resignation, for you to accept at any time you felt it would be helpful to our country.

That evening you called and said you did not believe my resignation would be the correct solution for the abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

By this letter I am resigning AS Secretary of Defense. During recent days I have given a good deal of thought to the situation, testified before Congress, and considered your views.

I have great respect for you, your outstanding leadership in the global war on terror and your hopes for our country



However, I have concluded that the damage from the Acts of Abuse that happened on my watch, by individuals for whose conduct I am ultimately responsible, can best be responded to by my resignation.

It has been an honor to serve you and the American people as Secretary of Defense. Above all, it has been a wonderful privilege to AGAIN WORK with the truly remarkable men and women in our country's Armed Services and in the Department of Defense. They are an inspiration to me and to all Americans. I know them to be dedicated, courageous and professional. The American people have a right to be enormously proud of them, as Am I.

Respectfully,

D. R. Field

