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CRIME —
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Commission

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COMMENTS: Latest draft - I think this is
about final.

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**JOINT STATEMENT OF SECRETARY SUMMERS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL
JANET RENO**

"Today, we received the report of the Commission on the Advancement of Federal Law Enforcement. While the report has many recommendations that must be studied before we can comment, the proposals to merge ATF and DEA into the FBI are not new.

✓ We have previously considered, studied and rejected the idea of merging the ATF and DEA into the FBI. We rejected this because, as a nation, we have opposed the creation of a national police force. Combining these diverse agencies would seriously dilute the focus on specialized enforcement areas, which require detailed knowledge and a high level of expertise. And by separating law enforcement authorities among departments and agencies, we can enhance the ability of Congress to focus on issues assigned to a particular agency and properly oversee that agency.

⑤ ATF collects revenue, regulates legitimate industries and has criminal enforcement authority. Having all these functions has allowed ATF to be flexible in its enforcement approaches and has fostered a mutually productive partnership between it and the regulated industries. Merging ATF's criminal enforcement jurisdiction into the FBI would eliminate this synergy. In light of the unprecedented level of coordination between Justice and Treasury, it is not apparent that there would be increased effectiveness, material efficiencies or budgetary savings from merging ATF into the FBI.

⑤ Over the years, DEA has exhibited a proven ability to foster law enforcement cooperation both domestically and internationally. A merger would result in a dilution of the nation's successful anti-drug effort and would cause a significant loss of momentum in domestic and overseas enforcement activities. Each agency possesses unique skills which complement each other and merging the two would not result in cost savings or increased efficiency.

Together we will review the remaining recommendations and provide our comments to the Commission, to the Congress and to the American people.