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# President outlines agenda, puts homeland security at top

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, outlining a legislative agenda after his party captured both the House and the Senate in midterm elections, said Thursday his top priority was legislation to create a new Department of Homeland Security. He said he wanted it this year.

"The election may be over, but the terrorist threat is still real," Bush said in his first public appearance since Republicans swept the elections.

Asked to sum up his reaction to the election, Bush said it showed that "people want something done."

He said Congress should not wait until next year, but should take up the homeland security bill in the post-election "lame duck" session that begins next week.

"I want it done. It is a priority," Bush said.

He spoke with reporters on the eve of a U.N. Security Council vote on a U.S.-backed compromise resolution demanding that Iraq disarm under the threat of force.

Earlier Thursday, Bush talked by phone with both Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac to discuss the

## With new leverage, GOP hones focus in Congress

With the Republicans keeping control of the House and gaining a majority in the Senate, Congress is expected to take a different look at some key issues.

 <b>Energy</b> Likely to focus on energy production; Proposal for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge lacks support.	 <b>Environment</b> Shakeup should put a crimp in efforts to regulate carbon dioxide emissions as a pollutant.	 <b>Health care</b> Republicans support a benefit to be offered mainly through private insurers. Democrats prefer a government-administered benefit.	 <b>Judges</b> Senate Republicans plan to push through as many of Bush's judicial nominees as possible next year.	 <b>Intelligence</b> Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., one of the CIA's biggest defenders at hearings on the Sept. 11 attacks, is likely to become Senate Intelligence Committee chairman.	 <b>Supreme Court</b> A Republican-controlled Senate could make it much more enticing for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist to retire.	 <b>Taxes</b> Republicans will try again to make permanent the \$135 trillion in tax cuts enacted last year and now scheduled to expire in 2010.
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SOURCE: Associated Press

resolution. Both have been cool to the hardline U.S. efforts to confront Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"It's now time for the world to come together to disarm him," Bush said. He said that Saddam "must be cooperative in the disarmament."

Asked why the United States was prepared to use force to disarm Iraq, but not to move militarily against North Korea, which has admitted to having a nuclear weapons program, Bush said: "I do care about

North Korea...but we'll deal with each threat differently."

"With North Korea, we're taking a different strategy initially. We're going to talk to countries in the neighborhood to convince North Korea it is not in the world's interest that they develop" nuclear weapons.

In Tuesday's midterm elections, Republicans recaptured the Senate and increased their margin of control in the House. Republicans leaders were optimistic that the victories would

help them win passage of an administration proposal that had been stalled in the Senate by the Democrats who had controlled the chamber.

"There's going to be a complete laundry list of things people want to get done," Bush cautioned, when asked whether he would push for controversial issues such as his plan to disband younger workers to fund some of their Social Security payroll taxes into stock and other private investments.

# Chinese communists expect to pick new generation of leaders at congress

BEIJING (AP) — Preparing for a landmark congress that is expected to install a new generation of leaders, China's communist party pledged Thursday to modernize its ideology to keep pace with a fast-changing, increasingly capitalist society.

"China has entered into a new phase of development, in which we are to build a well-to-do society," said Ji Bingxuan, spokesman for the party's 16th National Congress, which opens Friday in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

In keeping with the secrecy surrounding the event, Ji gave no details of the personnel changes planned at the congress, where President Jiang Zemin, 76, is expected to hand over the title of party leader to his 59-year-old vice president, Hu Jintao.

But Ji indicated that a key theme would be Jiang's personal campaign — known awkwardly as the "Three Represents" — to bring entrepreneurs into the party and to amend its constitution to give them a formal role.

"We will ... comprehensively implement the important thought of 'Three Represents,'" Ji said at a news conference.

Jiang was picked to lead the party in

1989 by then-supreme leader Deng Xiaoping, who launched the country's economic reforms a decade earlier.

Jiang's campaign is aimed at keeping a party that still calls itself the "vanguard of the working class" in control of a society where reform has unleashed dizzying changes. Some people have gotten rich, but many face upheaval as state industry sheds jobs in an attempt to compete.

Ji defended the decision to embrace entrepreneurs, saying they would serve the party — not weaken its revolutionary zeal.

"Workers, peasants, intellectuals, our men and women in uniform ... are still the backbone force of the Communist Party," he said. "This will further increase the influence and cohesion of the Communist Party throughout society."

Preparations for the congress have included sweeping efforts to tighten security in the capital and to block any possible demonstrations.

Hotels in Beijing have been ordered not to accept Tibetans or Muslim Uighurs from the restive Chinese northwest as guests, according to employees contacted at four hotels.

Nevertheless, activists used the event as a platform for political change.


A group of 192 dissidents inside China, in an open letter this week, urged delegates to release political prisoners and expand direct elections.

"Improvements in economic development cannot cover up more and more obvious problems of deep social peril," they said.

The relentlessly upbeat state press avoided talk of security or ideological conflict, instead heaping praise on the party's preparations for the congress.


The official Xinhua News Agency reported a "red readings fever" across the country, saying communist publications were being snapped up by the public. Theaters featured communist movies. "University students love to study party history," enthused the Beijing Youth Daily.

Ji, the congress spokesman, stressed what he called the "socialist democratic" qualities of the meeting. He said its 2,100 delegates had been chosen by party members through competitive elections and secret ballots.



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