$2 Billion Requested to Ferret Out Government Waste

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Investigators have found evidence that American companies provided crucial technology for Iraq's weapons program, contradicting a classified report that the Bush administration that extenuated U.S. companies, the chairman of the House Banking Committee said Monday.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas, the committee chairman, said that his investigators had identified 13 U.S. companies that supplied equipment - chiefly for an Iraqi missile program - and that more were sure to emerge.

"The report to Congress is completely inaccurate. In fact, numerous U.S. companies provided critical support to Iraq's weapons programs, including missiles," Gonzalez said in a letter to President Bush.

The chairman also said Secretary of State James A. Baker III had hampered his investigation by refusing to ask the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency for documents naming U.S. companies that supplied crucial technology for Iraq's weapons program, contradicting a classified report to Congress that extenuated U.S. companies, including Gonzalez said in a letter to President Bush.

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