

# RAHALL

## Weekly Report

"CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST"

BY CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL

THE MIDDLE EAST HAS AGAIN BEEN PUT ON THE FRONT PAGES OF OUR NATION'S NEWSPAPERS, AS WAR HAS BROKEN OUT IN THE COUNTRY OF LEBANON.

I HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE PAST, IN WORKING FOR A LONG-TERM PEACE FOR THIS TROUBLED REGION OF THE WORLD. RECENTLY, I HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ON ISRAEL'S MILITARY MOVEMENT INTO LEBANON. I DID SO FIRST OF ALL, AS AN AMERICAN WHO IS DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE UNITED STATES' BEST INTERESTS ARE NOT CURRENTLY BEING WELL SERVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND SECONDLY, BEING OF LEBANESE DESCENT, I FEEL A DEEP COMPASSION FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE HOMELAND OF MY GRANDPARENTS.

I FULLY RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO EXIST WITHIN ITS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDERS, AND I RECOGNIZE THAT ISRAEL IS AN IMPORTANT ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND ALWAYS MUST REMAIN AS SUCH. TO OPPOSE ISRAEL'S INVASION OF LEBANON IS TO SPEAK OUT AGGRESSION AND THE NEEDLESS SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT HUMAN BEINGS IN NOT ONLY LEBANON, BUT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHERE ONE NATION DECIDES TO SACRIFICE HUMAN BEINGS TO SATISFY ITS OWN NEED.

I WAS INITIALLY SILENT ON THIS MILITARY CAMPAIGN FEELING THAT ISRAEL HAD LEGITIMATE AIMS IN WANTING TO PROVIDE A 25 MILE BUFFER ZONE ON ITS NORTHERN BORDER FREE OF PLO ATTACKS. I FEEL HOWEVER, THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW FAR THE CLAIMS OF SELF DEFENSE CAN BE SPREAD WHEN THE DEATH TOLL CONTINUES TO RISE FAR ABOVE 10,000--HALF THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN RAMPAGED--AND EVEN THE COUNTRY'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE HAS BEEN SURROUNDED.

TO FURTHER MY COMMITMENT TO THIS ISSUE, I HAVE SPONSORED H. CON. RES. 359, WHICH CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY COMBAT FORCES FROM LEBANON. THE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLS FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL, AS STATED IN THE EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1961, WHICH SAYS THAT SUCH ARMS MUST BE USED FOR "NON-AGGRESSIVE PURPOSES ONLY."

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL NOT COME THROUGH MILITARY CONQUEST ON THE PART OF ANY PARTY, BUT RATHER BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION INVOLVING ALL PARTIES.

LEBANON, A COUNTRY WHICH HAS NEVER ATTACKED ANOTHER NATION IN ITS LONG HISTORY, SEEKS NOTHING MORE THAN ITS TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES AND SOVEREIGNTY TO BE RECOGNIZED, AND FOR HELP IN REBUILDING ITS CENTRAL ARMY TO A STRENGTH WHERE LEBANESE CAN CONTROL LEBANON.