

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 22, 1982

CONTACT: MIKE SERPE OR JOAN  
KUNKEL  
202-225-3452

## RAHALL TO LEAD MID-EAST MISSION

WASHINGTON D.C. --- U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NICK J. RAHALL, (D-WV), WILL LEAD A CONGRESSIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION FOR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR, TO SIX MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES--INCLUDING LEBANON.

THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TONIGHT, THURSDAY, JULY 22. THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED, IN ADDITION TO LEBANON, ARE: ISRAEL, EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA.

"THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSION," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OUTLINED, "IS TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY OF LEBANON, AND IN THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST REGION."

"OUR CONCERN FOR THE TERRITORIAL SOVERIGNTY AND DESIRE FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CURRENT SIEGE OF WEST BEIRUT PRECIPITATES THE NEED TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF ALL FACTIONS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY," RAHALL SAID, "AND WE WILL DISCUSS WITH ALL PARTIES THE FUTURE OF THIS DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT AS WELL THAT, "SPEAKER O'NEILL IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AMERICAN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORT, AND WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON ITS STATUS."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, WHO IS OF LEBANESE DESCENT AND WHOSE GRANDPARENTS WERE BORN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, WILL BE MAKING HIS SECOND TRIP AS THE SPEAKER'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE: REP. PAUL MCCLOSKEY, (R-CAL); REP. MARY ROSE OAKAR, (D-OH); REP. MERVYN DYMALLY, (D-CAL); REP. ELLIOT LEVITAS, (D-GA); AND REP. DAVID BONIOR, (D-MICH).

THE DELEGATION WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 1.