

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL APPLAUDS RELEASE OF NAVY FLIER

Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV), a member of the Speaker's Ad Hoc Committee on Lebanon, today expressed his pleasure at the release by Syria of U.S. Navy flier Lt. Robert O. Goodman, Jr.

"The release of Lt. Goodman is an important step in showing Syria's willingness to avoid conflict with the United States," Congressman Rahall observed.

"Their action was based on humanitarian grounds, and I believe it is now up to the United States to move away from its recent campaign of hard-line rhetoric against the Syrians, towards positive efforts to attain a peaceful solution with the Syrians over the situation in Lebanon," Rahall stressed.

Congressman Rahall, who was in Syria at the time of Lt. Goodman's capture said, "31 days in captivity is certainly too long, it could have been only 1 day if the Syrians had responded to my request for Lt. Goodman's release on December 5."

"However, like all Americans, I am delighted with the outcome of Rev. Jackson's efforts, and think he deserves his share of the credit in obtaining freedom for Lt. Goodman," Rahall said.

Concerning today's meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Lebanon, Congressman Rahall pointed out, "It is no longer a perception that the United States is taking sides in the internal Lebanese conflict -- it is a reality."

"There has to be an honorable way to get the Marines out of Beirut, and to get them out quickly," Rahall said.

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