



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RAHALL DENOUNCES FOREIGN AID
- SAYS MONEY IS BETTER SPENT IN U.S. -**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- In his continued call to create greater economic productivity in West Virginia, U.S. Rep Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) today denounced any further assistance to foreign nations at a time when that assistance is so badly needed at home.

"There is little question that many nations around the world require economic assistance in today's harsh reality of the world economy, and any compassionate nation, which has the resources, should assist those nations whenever possible," said Rahall. "The problem is the United States no longer has those resources."

"We have an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent," continued Rahall. "We have a growing number of people who are homeless, and many more who are inadequately housed. We have a large number of people who cannot afford appropriate health care due to a lack of appropriate wages. Our infrastructure is in disarray, and our economic development programs are grossly underfunded. We need to heal from within before we can give aid to those without."

Rahall went on to say that the United States has recorded one record-breaking trade deficit after another since 1983, and that the federal deficit has risen to \$152.1 billion while the gross federal debt is \$2.8 trillion.

"Given these realities, it is difficult for me to understand how it is that we believe we are in a position to provide foreign assistance when our own house is not in order," said Rahall.

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OPPOSE FOREIGN AID
SUPPORT U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR. SPEAKER. I strongly oppose further assistance to foreign nations at a time when that assistance is needed at home. There is little question that many nations around the world require economic and development assistance and that any compassionate nation, which has the resources, should assist those nations whenever possible. Over the years, the United States has been such a compassionate nation. However, we no longer have the resources to assist foreign nations, and our money would be better spent at home, addressing our own problems.

We currently have an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent. We have a growing number of people who are homeless, and those who are inadequately housed. We have a large number of people who work, but do not make adequate wages. We have a large number of people who cannot afford appropriate health care. Our infrastructure is in disrepair, and our economic development programs are grossly underfunded. Our youth, who will be saddled with these problems if something is not done, are being poisoned by illegal drugs flooding into our country.

Regrettably, the U.S. does not have the funds to address these problems. As we are all aware, the federal deficit is \$152.1 billion, and the gross federal debt is \$2.8 trillion. The United States has registered one record-breaking trade deficit after another since 1983. Between 1980 and 1988, the U.S. merchandise trade deficit rose from \$19.3 billion to \$118.5 billion. Between 1973 and 1986, real earnings declined 17 percent. Were it not for the large increase in the number of families with two wage earners, the U.S. standard of living would have declined substantially.

Given these realities, it is difficult for me to understand how it is that we believe we are in a position to provide foreign assistance, when we do not have our own house in order.