



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 3, 1990

CONTACT: STEVE SPINA

PHONE: (202) 225-3452

RAHALL OFFERS AMENDMENT TO BLOCK FOREIGN AID

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- In remarks made on the House floor today, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) strongly urged his colleagues to join him in supporting his amendment to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

"My amendment simply strikes foreign aid from this bill," said Rahall.

Rahall's amendment calls for the striking of the \$870 million provided for in foreign assistance to Panama, Nicaragua, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Caribbean. It also provides for the deletion of \$400 million in housing guarantees to Israel.

"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 nation," said Rahall.

"But Mr. Chairman, those days are long gone," continued Rahall. "Our deficit stands at \$152.1 billion, our gross federal debt at \$2.8 trillion. Real earnings between 1973 and 1986 have declined 17 percent. Our merchandise trade deficit has risen from \$19.3 billion to \$118.5 billion since 1980, and the list goes on."

"The administration would have you believe that we are cutting defense to aid struggling democracies, but the truth of the matter is that what they are really doing is slashing domestic needs to pay for foreign diplomacy."

Rahall sighted deep cuts in programs such as the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and EPA Construction grants as symptomatic of the lack of priorities the Administration has demonstrated.

"Just last week, the Senate defeated an amendment to the Clean Air Bill, offered by Senator Byrd, which would have provided \$500 million in financial support and job-training benefits for miners who are expected to lose their jobs as a result of the bill's acid rain provisions," added Rahall. "So why are we so gung-ho on turning around, less than a week later, and trying to provide twice that much to other nations. I say the time is now, it is America's turn, it is West Virginia's and the rest of America's time. I want to put West Virginia first, I call upon my colleagues to put America first."

--30--