



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RAHALL TO SECRETARY BAKER: JAPAN SHOULD PAY ITS DUES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) warned Secretary of State James Baker that Japan had better start assuming their fair share of the burden in world protection or else they may find themselves alone.

"The Crisis in the Gulf has made it painfully clear that Japan is not carrying their weight in world defense," said Rahall. "More specifically, I am talking about their failure to carry out their end of an agreement to assume responsibility for the defense of its air space and sea lanes within 1000 miles of its home territory."

What Rahall was referring to was an agreement made in May 1981 with then Prime Minister Suzuki that Japan would assume responsibility for the defense of Pacific air space and sea lanes out to 1000 miles. Nine years later, Japan has still failed to follow through with the purchase of the military hardware essential to fulfill their mission.

"People are beginning to become a little bit restless with the thought that America must carry the torch of freedom to all nations of the world with little support or backing," said Rahall. "We want nations like Japan to step forward and assume their share of the burden."

Rahall went on to clarify the actual details of the present request of Secretary Baker: "The cornerstone of air and sea defense is an advanced early warning, command, and control capability, a function which only Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft backed up by a sufficient fleet of airborne refueling tankers can provide."

Defense experts agree that to cover the Pacific region competently, you would need between 12 to 14 AWACS planes and at least 20 tankers. At present, Japan has failed to purchase any of these aircraft. Moreover, Japan only has plans to purchase 4 AWACS and no additional tankers-- a force level that is completely inadequate.

"Japan must live up to its commitment," cautioned Rahall. "The crisis in the Persian Gulf has demonstrated that our allies will quietly allow us to pick up the entire tab for our mutual security unless we make it clear that unshared burdens and unshared costs are simply unacceptable."

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WHIP-AT-LARGE

September 13, 1990

Dear Secretary Baker:

We are writing to express our concern over the failure of Japan to live up to its 1981 commitment to assume responsibility for the defense of its air space and sea lanes within 1000 miles of its home territory.

In May of 1981, Prime Minister Suzuki of Japan announced that his country would assume responsibility for the defense of Pacific air space and sea lanes out to 1000 miles. Nine years later, however, Japan has still not purchased the military hardware necessary to carry out this essential mission. And now, we've learned that Japan's latest defense acquisition program once again fails to take this important defense commitment into account.

As the overwhelming support in the House for Representative Bonior's amendment calling for increased defense burden sharing indicates, there is a growing perception around the nation that Japan must begin to carry its fair share of the costs for our mutual defense.

The cornerstone of air and sea defense is an advanced early warning and command and control capability, a function which only Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft backed up by a sufficient fleet of airborne refueling tankers can provide. Defense experts on both sides of the Pacific agree that comprehensive coverage of the vast area Japan has agreed to defend requires between 12 to 14 AWACS planes and at least 20 tankers needed to extend the vital time-on-station of these airborne surveillance platforms.

At present, however, Japan has failed to acquire any of these essential aircraft. Moreover, Japan's current defense acquisition plans call for the purchase of only 4 AWACS planes and no additional tankers-- a force level which is completely inadequate for the vital defense commitment Japan has promised to fulfill.

Mr. Secretary, Japan must live up to its commitment. The crisis in the Persian Gulf has demonstrated that our allies will quietly allow us to pick up the entire tab for our mutual security unless we make it clear that unshared burdens and unshared costs are simply unacceptable.

In this context, we ask you to press Japan to include timely acquisition of an adequate number of AWACS planes and support tankers in the formulation of their defense plans. We also ask that you report to us on why this vital burden sharing process has stalled, and on the prospects for shared air and sea defense between our two nations in the future. After nine long years of procrastination and delay, it is high time that Japan makes good on its promises.

Sincerely,

Charles Schumer

Frank Brune

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Tom Carper

Bob Casey

Donald W. Payne

Bruce Vento

Tom Lujan

Arnell W. Keyser

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