



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY U.S. REP. NICK RAHALL:

I STAND BEHIND THE PRESIDENT AND OUR FIGHTING FORCES IN THE PERSIAN GULF, AND I PRAY FOR PEACE TO COME SOONER THAN LATER IN THIS HORRIBLE CONFLICT.

BUT I WOULD URGE PRESIDENT BUSH TO UNDERSTAND THAT IN ANY WAR, THE REAL VICTORY COMES IN THE KNOWLEDGE LEARNED FROM THAT WAR. WE WILL HAVE GAINED NOTHING FROM THIS CONFLICT IF WE RETURN TO THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF THE PAST CONCERNING THE GULF REGION.

WE, AS A NATION, HAVE GOT TO BECOME ENERGY INDEPENDENT. WE NEED TO BUILD A COORDINATED ENERGY PROGRAM BASED ON ALTERNATIVE FUELS. FUELS THAT ARE ABUNDANT IN THIS RESOURCE RICH COUNTRY OF OURS.

ALSO, AS THE WAR CONTINUES AND WELL AFTER IT IS OVER, AMERICA MUST CONTINUE TO SEEK OUT AND COLLECT THE PLEDGES OWED TO THEM BY OUR ALLIED NATIONS. NATIONS, WHO AT TIMES, APPEAR MUCH MORE SUPPORTIVE IN WORD THAN IN ACTION. THESE ALLIES MUST NO LONGER THINK OF THE U.S. AS THE LONE RANGER, CASING THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR EVIL AND OPPRESSION. THEY MUST STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH US, FIGHTING AND PAYING ON EQUAL TERMS. SADDAM HUSSEIN IS NOT JUST A MENACE TO THE UNITED STATES. EVERYONE HAS A STAKE IN THIS CONFLICT.

SO WHEN VICTORY COMES, I HOPE WE WILL HAVE LEARNED MANY THINGS, BUT THE ULTIMATE VICTORY OF THIS WAR SHOULD BE THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS BRIDGING THE GULF OF NEGLECT RIGHT HERE IN AMERICA AND STARTING TO WORK FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION FOR ALL AMERICANS.

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