



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RAHALL RAILS ALLIES FOR 33 PERCENT PAY-UP OF WAR PLEDGES
-- URGES PRESIDENT TO MAKE GERMANY PAY IN FULL --**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today urged President Bush to keep the "heat up" on allied pledges and hold Germany to their word. Citing a recent Washington Post article, which reported that Germany was working toward reducing their war pledge, Rahall called on the President, "to continue to see that those who did not take an active role in the Persian Gulf War will at least fulfill their economic obligations."

The Post reported in their March 18th edition that the German government is sending a delegation to "discuss whether the United States really needs the entire German contribution."

"It is unthinkable that after decades of support and billions of dollars spent on the rebuilding and defense of Western Europe that Germany would now turn its back on one of its strongest allies," said Rahall. "How quickly they forget the Marshall Plan."

The West Virginia democrat was joined by 37 of his colleagues in writing to the President last December urging him to pursue further pledges and collect on those already promised. He followed that up with a resolution calling for the sense of Congress that the President should pursue every avenue available to him in collecting those pledges.

Rahall, quoting recent figures compiled by the Senate Appropriations Committee, said that only 33 percent of the total pledges were in the bank with \$36.5 billion still outstanding. Germany has donated \$2.9 billion with \$3.6 billion still outstanding, 45 percent of their total pledge.

"American men and women were asked to do the fighting, the American people have been asked to pay \$15 billion for the effort, and it is time the Allies paid their fair share," said Rahall.

Rahall pointed out that Japan has contributed a dismal 12 percent of their total pledge and applauded the Senate for their vote yesterday that would prevent any future weapons sales to countries who have not met their total pledge.

"The American people and the President have been more than understanding with countries like Japan. We have carried the torch of democracy for the entire world, but you couldn't even buy a pack of matches to light the thing with what Japan has dished out," said Rahall.

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 1991

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The Honorable George Bush
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my concern over the announced intention of Germany to reduce its pledge of support for Operations Desert Shield and Storm. As you are aware, 37 of my colleagues joined me in writing you last December, urging your continued efforts in securing additional financial support from our allies in our campaign against Saddam Hussein. With the conclusion of our military role in the Gulf drawing near, it is essential that all pledges of support are paid in full.

It is unthinkable that after decades of support and billions of dollars spent on the defense of Western Europe that Germany would now turn its back on one of its strongest allies. Our action in the Persian Gulf served not only the interests of the United States of America, but of the world as a whole. The excellent performance of the American Military and its partners in the coalition should not be clouded by Germany's refusal to honor its pledge.

American men and women died defending the world against a tyrant whose arsenal was built with the help of western powers. Many of those very countries have now paid the price of disarming Saddam. It is my hope you will continue to see that those who did not take an active role in the Persian Gulf War will at least fulfill their economic obligations.

It would be a shame to see the good feelings that have been generated by our tremendous victory turn sour by allowing Germany to back out of its pledge of monetary support.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

COPY

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/dm

WASH Post

3-19-91

Bonn to Ask About Cutting War Payment

Washington Post Foreign Service

BONN, March 18—The German government plans to send a delegation to Washington in the coming days to discuss whether the United States really needs the entire German contribution to the cost of the Persian Gulf War.

The move comes as a result of a call by the German opposition Social Democrats for Bonn not to complete its pledged \$11 billion donation to the war effort. About \$5.5 billion of that total was to be delivered to the United States in

cash; the rest was directed at other members of the coalition or consisted of equipment and other non-cash contributions.

The Social Democrats contend that Washington will receive \$60 billion from other countries while the war cost only \$42 billion, leaving the United States with a profit. Social Democrat Wolfgang Roth said Germany should stop its payments and use the money to roll back the tax hike announced by the Kohl government rather than "to add to the United States' surplus."

Bonn government spokesman Dieter Vogel said today that the anti-Iraq coalition is still spending money on the continuing presence of troops in the Gulf region, and so it is premature to name a bottom line for the war effort.