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**THE WHITE HOUSE
DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING
WORKSHEET**



DATE RECEIVED: 8/23/2006

CASE ID: 703913

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL

HW040

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES VIEWS REGARDING THE CURRENT HUMANITARIAN CRISIS OCCURRING ALONG THE BORDER OF LEBANON AND ISRAEL

ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		CODE	DATE	TYPE RESPONSE	CODE	COMPLETED
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	CANDI WOLFF	ORG	8/24/2006			C
ACTION COMMENTS:						
✓ DAS		R	8/29/06	AS	A	10/10/06
ACTION COMMENTS:						
DOD		I	8/30/06		C	
ACTION COMMENTS:						
NSC		I	8/30/06		C	
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						

COMMENTS:

MEDIA: LETTER

USER CODE:

ACTION CODES:	DISPOSITION		
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION B - RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK D - DRAFT RESPONSE I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY	TYPE RESPONSE: TYPE RESPONSE = INITIALS OF SIGNER NRN = NO RESPONSE NEEDED	DISPOSITION CODES: A - ANSWERED/ACKNOWLEDGED C - CLOSED X - INTERIM REPLY	COMPLETED DATE: COMPLETED = DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSE-OUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT (ROOM 84, OE0B) EXT-62590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT

**SCANNED
BY
ORM**

**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
REFERRAL**

August 30, 2006

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY W/COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 703913

MEDIA: LETTER

**DOCUMENT
DATE:** AUGUST 11, 2006

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: JOHN DINGELL
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES VIEWS REGARDING THE CURRENT HUMANITARIAN
CRISIS OCCURRING ALONG THE BORDER OF LEBANON AND ISRAEL

COMMENTS:

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9
WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-2590.

RETURN **ORIGINAL** CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT)
TO: DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT, ROOM 84, OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE
HOUSE, 20500

703913
BK

JOHN D. DINGELL
15TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

CO-CHAIR
HOUSE GREAT LAKES
TASK FORCE

MEMBER
MIGRATORY BIRD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
ROOM 2328
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2215
(202) 225-4071

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2215

August 11, 2006

DISTRICT OFFICES:
19855 WEST OUTER DRIVE
SUITE 103-E
DEARBORN, MI 48124
(313) 278-2936

3 EAST FRONT STREET
SUITE 103
MONROE, MI 48161
(734) 243-1849

5TH WASHINGTON STREET
PSILANTI, MI 48197
(734) 381-1100

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
5
SEP 1 2006
RECEIVED

The President
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

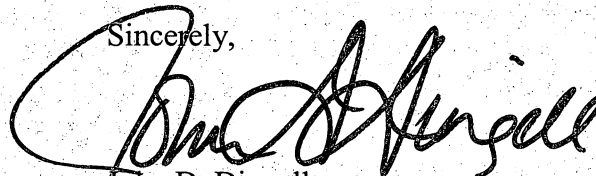
I write with regard to the current humanitarian crisis occurring along the border of Lebanon and Israel. Civilian casualties are mounting on both sides of the border and little humanitarian assistance is reaching those particularly in need. I ask that you work to bring a cessation to the violence so that the United States can lead the effort in delivering humanitarian aid directly to the people who need it the most.

As you know, thousands of civilians are trapped in the middle of the conflict between the Israeli Defense Forces and the terrorist group, Hezbollah. Unfortunately, as with most modern conflicts, it is the civilians who are in need of direct humanitarian assistance. Transportation infrastructure has been destroyed, making it very difficult to get supplies to the civilians in need. There have also been warnings that moving vehicles will be targeted in certain areas where the conflict is particularly harsh, in effect closing any avenue for civilian assistance. The little assistance that has reached civilians has been inadequate.

The loss of life on both sides is a great tragedy. The United States must work with other peace loving nations to assist civilians in this conflict and allow for them to receive the medical care, food, and water they need for their survival.

Moreover, it is important for the United States to work as an honest broker to bring about a cessation to this current conflict and to create a lasting peace in the Middle East. A lasting peace will put an end to decades of tension and strife, ushering in a new era where nations can coexist without taking up arms.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

703913



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

OCT 10 2006

Dear Mr. Dingell:

Thank you for your letter of August 11 to President Bush regarding the violent conflict on the Israel-Lebanon border and the resulting humanitarian crisis. We have been asked to respond on the President's behalf.

On August 11, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1701, which has enabled a cessation of hostilities and laid the foundation for a new peace. Prior to its passage, we worked intensely with the international community to seek an immediate end to the violence that Hizballah and its sponsors – Iran and Syria – imposed on the people of Lebanon and Israel. At the same time, we insisted that a sustainable cease-fire required a decisive change from the status-quo ante that produced this conflict.

UNSCR 1701 accomplished several important objectives. First, it put in place a full cessation of hostilities. Second, it outlined mechanisms for the democratic Government of Lebanon to expand its sovereign authority over the entirety of Lebanon. It also enabled the deployment of an enhanced UNIFIL force to help protect the Israel-Lebanon border. Finally, the resolution clearly laid out principles to secure a lasting peace: no foreign forces, no weapons, and no authority in Lebanon other than that of the sovereign Lebanese Government.

Since the end of hostilities significant humanitarian and early reconstruction efforts have begun. The President has pledged over \$230 million in humanitarian, reconstruction, and security aid to Lebanon – more than \$60 million of which has already been spent on critical initiatives, including the removal of unexploded ordinances. We have also leveraged private sector and other economic incentives to support Lebanese recovery.

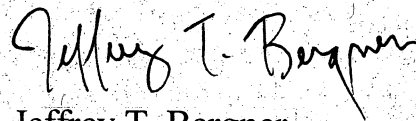
The Honorable

John D. Dingell,
House of Representatives.

Projects to rebuild vital infrastructure are underway, and as of early September, over 750,000 of the estimated 980,000 displaced persons have returned to their homes.

While important progress has been made, much remains to be done. Please know that the U.S. will remain engaged in longer-term reconstruction and efforts to secure the peace. Thank you for sharing your thoughts on these important matters. Please feel free to contact us about these or any other matters in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey T. Bergner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs