

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 14, 1996.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,
U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

Re Louis Farrakhan's Trip to Iran and Libya

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I write to urge you as the Secretary of State to investigate Louis Farrakhan's recent trips to Libya and Iran, which are listed on the United States' terrorist list for their roles in state sponsored terrorism. By engaging in such travel, it is my understanding that Mr. Farrakhan may have violated several federal statutes, including the Foreign Agents Registration Act, various passport travel restrictions, sanctions regulations and the Logan Act.

An investigation by your department is critical to determine the means by which Mr. Farrakhan traveled to Libya and Iran, what economic contributions he may have made to these countries, whether there exists any financial relationship between these terrorist governments and Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, and answers to other relevant questions.

It is unconscionable and unacceptable for our government to stand idly by, while federal laws may have been disregarded with impunity by this man.

I respectfully urge your department to take whatever action is necessary, including comprehensive investigations to fully disclose Louis Farrakhan's travels and interaction with the terrorist regimes in Libya and Iran.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this matter, and I look forward to working with you in this regard.

With kind regards, I am,
Very truly yours,

BOB BARR,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
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Hon. JANET RENO,
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

Re Louis Farrakhan's trip to Iran and Libya.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I write to urge you as Attorney General of the United States to, as soon as possible, investigate Louis Farrakhan's recently trips to Libya and Iran, which are listed on the United States' terrorist list for their roles in state-sponsored terrorism. By engaging in such travel, it is my understanding that Mr. Farrakhan may have violated several federal statutes, including the Foreign Agents Registration Act, various passport travel restrictions, sanctions regulations, and the Logan Act.

An investigation by your department is critical to determine the means by which Mr. Farrakhan traveled to Libya and Iran, what economic contributions he may have made to these countries, whether there exists any financial relationship between these terrorist governments and Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, and answers to other relevant questions.

It is unconscionable and unacceptable for our government to stand idly by, while federal laws may have been disregarded with impunity by this man.

I respectfully urge your office to take whatever action is necessary, including comprehensive investigations to fully disclose Louis Farrakhan's travels and interaction with the terrorist regimes in Libya and Iran.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this matter, and I look forward to working with you in this regard.

With kind regards, I am,
Very truly yours,

BOB BARR,
Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, to say that Mr. Farrakhan is, quote, cavorting with dictators, close quote, as one presidential spokesman initially said, is not enough. Our laws should be the rule of the land, not political interests of the moment.

Even beyond, Mr. Speaker, the immediate questions about whether Mr. Farrakhan has violated U.S. laws, looms the broader issue of whether U.S. laws purporting to guard against U.S. citizens conspiring to work against U.S. national security interests have any meaning whatsoever. Do our laws, which prevent U.S. citizens from serving as conduits for foreign money being interjected into the U.S. political system, have any meaning or not?

These fundamental and basic questions about the scope and strength and rule of U.S. laws guarding our national security and guarding the integrity of our political system must be addressed. We must have the backbone to ask these questions through appropriate congressional hearings and through appropriate law enforcement review by the Department of Justice.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 927, CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY (LIBERTAD) ACT OF 1996

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-470) on the resolution (H. Res. 370) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 927) to seek international sanctions against the Castro government in Cuba, to plan for support of a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEUTSCH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, for the fourth time in 9 days, a savage suicide bomber has attacked the people and the state of Israel, seeking to terrorize its people and destabilize the Middle East peace process. The latest bombing, outside Tel Aviv's largest shopping

mall, struck a crowded center filled with families and many children dressed in costume for the Jewish holiday festival of Purim. At least 12 were killed and 120 wounded in yesterday's bombing, only 1 day after a bus bombing in Jerusalem killed 18 people. The latest terrorist attacks bring the death toll of this 9-day siege to 59.

The United States and the world must stand with Israel in this time of crisis. The actions of Hamas, the militant Moslem group which has claimed responsibility for these bombings, should not be tolerated. We cannot allow these terrorists to undermine the peace process and reverse the tremendous progress that has been made. More importantly, we must do all we can to stop these terrorist attacks and all who would support them militarily and financially.

Israeli President Shimon Peres reiterated yesterday that Israel would not surrender to terrorists, and I have no doubt he will bring the nation's full weight to bear on Hamas and their allies who would threaten the very existence of Israel.

I am pleased that President Clinton has moved swiftly to assist Israel in its efforts to battle this deadly wave of terrorism. The highly sophisticated bomb detection equipment and technical experts the United States sent to Israel today will support Israel's efforts to bring the killers to justice and to prevent future bombings.

While these attacks have been portrayed as acts of revenge for Israel's killing of a Hamas terrorist leader, there can be no doubt today that these attacks are designed to undermine the peace process between Israel and the Palestinian authority led by Yasser Arafat. The actions of Hamas should not be tolerated nor should they be allowed to sway our commitment to peace.

We here in the U.S. Congress must not waiver on our own commitment to this effort. Domestically, we must do everything within the law to ensure that Hamas and other terrorist groups do not receive financial support from within the United States. Internationally, we must lead the world in taking strong action against any nation that harbors or supports terrorists.

We must also demand that Chairman Arafat and Palestinian Authority use the police powers granted under the peace process to bring these terrorists to justice. Finally, we must endorse the Israeli Cabinet's position of troop deployment as an allowable exception to the Peace accords to address an inexcusable action on the part of a terrorist organization.

Today, all Israel mourns the loss of its friends and family, and the entire world grieves with them. We can best honor the victims of these bombings by recommitting ourselves to a comprehensive peace for Israel and the entire Middle East. But we must also recognize there can be no true peace until the terrorists behind these attacks are

brought to justice. They must not succeed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning this senseless campaign of terror against the people of Israel and in sending our condolences to the families of the victims of these horrible attacks. America stands with you and will support you throughout your fight against terrorism and for peace.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A TERRIBLY SAD DAY FOR HUMANITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the eloquent comments of my colleague from Texas who just spoke. This is for all who care about the best instincts of humanity, a terribly sad day.

The people of Israel, a democratic society represented by a democratically elected government, have been in the process for the past couple of years of taking risks for peace, of reaching out in ways that societies do not always do. The Israelis have shown a willingness to cede control of territory that was hard-earned in wartime and in a war forced on them by the intransigence and hostility of its enemies, and the effort by the Government of Israel to bring about this peace has tragically been responded to by a minority, but unfortunately a significant minority, within the Arab world, by a campaign of vicious murder.

No society, and certainly no democratic society where the people rule as they do in Israel, can tolerate this sort of assault on the citizenry. We should make very clear from the outset that the Government of the United States is fully supportive of the decisions that have been made and will be made by the government of Prime Minister Peres. No one has done more to show his dedication to true peace and by that very fact, as well as by the right of self-defense inherent in any state, and particularly for a democratic society, Prime Minister Peres and his colleagues have earned the right to take the steps that they need to in self-defense with our full support, and that will include sending Israeli security forces anywhere in the area where they are required to go, because you cannot sit back and let dozens and dozens of your people be slaughtered defenselessly. You have the absolute, not just right, but obligation to defend them, and the United States should make very clear that it will be supportive of this.

Arguments that somehow this is incompatible with the peace process cannot be given any weight, because what could be less compatible with the peace process than the systematic brutal murder of dozens of innocent people by the Hamas terrorists.

People should understand that, again, Israel being a democratic society, it cannot go forward with a peace process until and unless its security can be provided.

I thought the chance for genuine peace in the Middle East was one of the finest hours we have seen. I still hope that we will get the benefits of that. But people must understand that protecting the innocent citizens of Israel against this sort of butchery is an absolute precondition to any further progress in the peace process.

No democratically elected government would try, and it would not succeed if it did try, and it would not deserve to succeed if it did try, to go forward with a peace process without securing the defense of its citizens. And an especially important burden lies with the leadership of the Arab world, of Yasser Arafat, who has clearly done far too little, we now learn, to enforce the law and true peace. The Palestinian leadership cannot at the same time profit from the steps towards peace and then fail to use the authority they are getting to put an end to this murder.

If the Palestinian authority cannot put an end to this systematic, organized murder that comes from within their ranks, they will not have a moral claim and they will not have a legal claim and they will not have a claim anyone will recognize to control the territory.

But it is also important for us to talk to our Arab friends, the Saudi Arabians and others. It is not enough simply to dissociate themselves from these murderers, it is simply not enough to look the other way unless there is a sustained willingness on the part of the Arab leadership to cut off funds. These are not people who are earning a living by some honorable means. They cannot go forward with this terrorism without substantial subsidies in which governments are complicit.

The President of Syria, a great defender of terrorism, must be told any dream he has of regaining control of the Golan Heights totally evaporates now and for the foreseeable future until he begins a reversal and says, "We will crack down on terrorism."

I believe the peace process was one of the finest hours of mankind. I believe the Israeli government was distinguishing itself. I was hopeful there was within the Arab world the kind of responsible leadership that would reach out and meet that. Today that is in question. It is not enough to condemn and wink and look the other way. It is important that we get a full commitment from the Arab leadership to cooperate fully with the Israeli leadership in putting an end to these murderers' ability to murder. Otherwise,

one of the things they will have murdered will be the peace process.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND SECRETARY OF ENERGY MUST ACCOUNT FOR WASTED MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this country and this legislative body and the administration have been struggling to achieve a balanced budget. The people really do not understand this problem, and, frankly, I do not either.

The working Americans balance their checking accounts monthly. I cannot think of a business in Kansas, where I am the Fourth District Congressman, or a nonprofit organization or an individual that has not balanced their budget over the last 26 years, nowhere except right here in the Federal Government.

This Congress has also been striving to be a House of the people, bringing common sense from the common people back to Government. But we have had many obstacles in achieving that.

The administration has submitted multiple budgets that did not balance. The President personally lobbied against the balanced budget amendment, which passed in the House and failed by only one vote in the U.S. Senate, and the President, in his last budget, which was scored as a balanced budget by the CBO, has 95 percent of the savings in the last 2 years, which would be after his administration, assuming that he would be successful next November.

Perhaps the most confusing, though, is how the President condones actions that are directly in opposition to achieving a balanced budget. I am speaking of the waste and the abuse and the potentially fraudulent activity that have been occurring in the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy. The President's Secretary of Commerce, Secretary Ron Brown, has allowed the excessive issuance of Government credit cards; for example, half of the employees at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, NOAA, as it is called, have been issued Government credit cards. Even nongovernment employees have been issued Government credit cards. Reportedly, there have been 600 instances where they have taken Government credit cards and used an automatic teller to receive cash, cash benefits, unaccountable for. I wonder how long do people like Tim Schwillig, who works at the Boeing Co. delivering parts, or Craig Faroh, who works for Sedgwick County, how long do they have to work to pay in tax to the Federal Government to just have it taken out in cash benefits, unaccounted for?

There is Mr. Clinton's Secretary of Energy, Secretary O'Leary, who has been known for her excessive travel. Some call her a congenital flyer, over