

the House had with the Agency for International Development [AID] regarding the emergency needs of assistance in Lebanon in the aftermath of the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel in April.

Lebanon remains an important country for the United States and it is in our national interest to help its people as they struggle to preserve and strengthen the country's independence, territorial integrity, and freedom.

The continued fighting in southern Lebanon has brought untold suffering on Lebanese civilians often caught in the crossfire. While helping to provide immediate humanitarian assistance, there is a real need to work immediately for a Lebanese-Israeli peace agreement which produces a durable cessation of fighting, allows for a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, holds the Lebanese Army responsible for security along the country's southern border, and implements a plan for the disarming of Hezbollah and other groups in Lebanon not already disarmed.

The congressional letter of April 18 and the AID reply of June 7 follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, April 18, 1996.

Hon. BRIAN ATWOOD,  
Director, Agency for International Development,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. DIRECTOR: The purpose of this letter is to request emergency assistance for the civilian refugees in Lebanon. After 16 years of civil war, we were hopeful that Lebanon was on the road to regaining the peace and stability that made it a hallmark in the Middle East. However, due to the most recent violence in the region, several thousand civilian men, women, and children have been forced to flee their homes and have suffered great tragedy. Although any loss of life is tragic, whether it be Jewish or Arab, this situation is particularly troublesome to us as we believe the Lebanese government is unable to respond fully to this overwhelming demand upon its infrastructure and public services. Any assistance the United States could provide would be a tangible demonstration of our commitment to peace in this region.

The specific needs which we ask you to address are, in our opinion, humanitarian and easily justifiable. We have been informed that there is an immediate need for food and water supplies, water purification gear, sanitation provisions, housing materials, medicines and medical equipment. Any assistance your Department can provide will be quickly and fully employed to relieve this tragic suffering.

We are ready to work with you. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell, Ray LaHood, Lee H. Hamilton, Nick J. Rahall, II, Joe Knollenberg, Pat Danner, Martin Hoke, David E. Bonior, Victor Frazer, Marcy Kaptur, John Baldacci, John Conyers, Tony P. Hall, Howard Berman, Dana Eshoo, Ronald V. Dellums, Jim Moran.

U.S. AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
Washington, DC, June 7, 1996.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of April 18, 1996, regarding the need for humanitarian assistance to civilian refugees in Lebanon. Mr. Atwood is traveling overseas and ask me to respond.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of

State are actively responding to the humanitarian needs of thousands of civilians who were displaced by the conflict in April. On April 19, the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Richard Jones, issued a disaster declaration in response to a series of international appeals for assistance launched by the Government of Lebanon. USAID released \$25,000 for immediate provision to local non-governmental organizations implementing emergency relief activities. These organizations provided immediate support and lodging, mobilized ambulance fleets, mobile clinics, and first aid centers to assist the sick and wounded. Internally displaced persons also received kitchen utensils, water purification tablets, infant powdered milk, blankets, hygiene materials, and medicine.

Also, on April 19, the State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration authorized \$1 million to respond to the International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) \$3 million emergency appeal for Lebanon. In addition, the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs recently provided excess military medical supplies and equipment weighing more than 29,000 pounds and valued at \$223,962 to the victims of the conflict. The cost of transporting this assistance was \$105,600.

Moreover, we have received reports from the field that the ICRC emergency appeal and the United Nations' \$8.6 million Flash Appeal for Internally Displaced Persons as a result of the emergency in Lebanon have been fully met. Total contributions towards these appeals, which currently amount to nearly \$12 million, have successfully supported first-aid activities and the provision of medical and relief supplies, including much-needed water supplies, water purification tablets and jerry cans, kitchen utensils, and personal hygiene materials, as well as the distribution of food to displaced populations.

Finally, as an initial response, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has donated \$707,000 for distribution of locally purchased food commodities, such as rice, pulses, and vegetable oil, to 100,000 beneficiaries for a 30-day period starting on May 1. WFP has already provided the Lebanese government with 80 metric tons of canned fish for distribution among the displaced population.

Thank you for sharing your concerns on this matter with us and for your kind offer to assist us in expediting this assistance. If I can be further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

JILL BUCKLEY,  
Assistant Administrator, Bureau for  
Legislative and Public Affairs.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER GRIFFIN  
JONES, JR.

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ  
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a legendary leader in south Texas. Luther Griffin Jones, Jr. served as Corpus Christi mayor from 1979 to 1989, and upon leaving office, was named "Mayor Emeritus" by the city council. Tomorrow is Mayor Jones' 80th birthday, and true to form, he will combine his birthday with an event to support our Sister City Committee which promotes economic and cultural exchanges in south Texas.

His accomplishments are widely known and he is widely loved. Mayor Jones continues to

live an extraordinary life. He came to our community via the U.S. Army. He became the commander of the Corpus Christi Army Depot in 1967, a position he held until he retired in 1971, after 29 years of service to his country. Also in 1971, he was named the cowinner of the first Secretary of the Army Award for Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity.

After serving as vice president of the Corpus Christi Mercantile National Bank, he began four terms of service as the mayor of Corpus Christi. During his highly successful four terms, he advocated the building of two desperately needed local facilities, a new central library and a new city hall. The Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, which has become a major south Texas tourist attraction, was also built during Mayor Jones' tenure. The aquarium has become a major element of our local economy.

In the mid-1980's, Mayor Jones worked with me in our community's effort to obtain Naval Station Ingleside [NSI], home to the U.S. Naval Mine Warfare Center of Excellence. That community effort was pivotal to the eventual decision by the Navy to locate the base in the Coastal Bend. Corpus Christi wanted the base in south Texas so much that we helped pay for it. The associated bond issue was difficult and Mayor Jones' support and advocacy were critical to its success.

Mayor Emeritus Jones has been dedicated to furthering education during his lifetime. From 1987 to 1989, he served as President of 4UCC, an organization committed to obtaining a 4-year university for the city. He has been an inspirational friend to young people in Corpus Christi, and has an elementary school named in his honor.

He has generously given of his time to causes that add to the economic viability of the Coastal Bend. He led a mayor's task force in 1993, Citizens for Affordable Water, to persuade voters of the need for raising the sales tax to buy water. In 1990, he cochaired the community investment task force to promote economic development. One year later, Governor Richards appointed him to chair the Texas Turnpike Authority, which he did at his own expense.

His life has been the example of his personal commitment to public service, and Corpus Christi has seen endless political courage in a man willing to tackle the difficult task. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Mayor Emeritus Luther Jones, a renowned patriot and leader.

TRIBUTE TO THE OAK LAWN ELKS  
LODGE NO. 2254 ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF THEIR 28TH FLAG DAY  
CEREMONY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI  
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Oak Lawn Elks Lodge No. 2254 on the occasion of their annual Flag Day ceremony. The celebration, on June 9, 1996, marked the 28th year of this event. The extraordinary patriotism that was exhibited at this ceremony is truly an example of the best that America has to offer.