

[REDACTED]

Congressman Dick Arney
301 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4326

May 6, 2002

Re: Blind support of Israel and encouragement of terrorism

Dear Sir,

I did not see your interview on *Hardball With Chris Matthews* but I did read of it afterwards in the *Washington Post*. You are quoted as saying that you would be "**content to have Israel grab the entire West Bank**," and suggested the Palestinians should have their own state in one of the "many Arab nations that have many hundreds of thousands of acres of land."

I am utterly appalled that you can make such statements. You must realize that comments like this from senior US officials such as you feed the hatred of the US that makes a few people want to fly airliners into crowded office towers! You put us all at risk! Our rhetoric is about freedom and democracy but you implicitly advocate dispossession and oppression.

I read on your web site that you don't support the forced expulsion of Palestinians but there was no retraction of your statement that you approve of Israeli sovereignty over Palestinian lands. **If it was wrong for Iraq to invade and occupy Kuwait, it is also wrong for Israel to occupy the lands it captured by force in 1967.**

Israel's struggles with suicide bombers are NOT our battle against terrorism. We do not occupy anyone else's country. Much of the violence against Israelis will stop when the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip ends and the rest will stop when those who lost their houses and land in 1948 are properly compensated in lieu of the right of return.

Given the tragic history of the Jews, I have no problem with the concept of a Jewish state so they can control their own destiny but why should we expect the Palestinians to provide the real estate for free? The cause of terrorism against Israel is Israel's refusal to deal fairly with the Palestinians. There will be no peace in the Middle East until the settlements are abandoned, the military withdrawn, compensation provided and a serious international effort to rebuild the infrastructure of Palestine and the lives of Palestinians.

Yours truly,

Peter [REDACTED]