Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 2, 2006

President Tassos Papadopoulos
Republic of Cyprus
Nicosia, Cyprus

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the people of the United States, we are writing to express our most sincere gratitude for Cyprus's extraordinary efforts to assist American citizens evacuating Lebanon. Your government has responded commendably by launching a major effort to support the evacuation of U.S. citizens and others leaving Lebanon.

According to press reports, there may be as many as 25,000 Americans in Lebanon, and the U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus has estimated that thousands of these citizens will travel through Cyprus as they leave Lebanon. Cyprus's proximity and extensive maritime facilities make it an especially suitable evacuation route.

Cyprus's commendable reaction to this crisis is reminiscent of your country's response to the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing, when Cyprus provided the staging ground for the United States' evacuation and rescue efforts. Today, the whole world is benefiting from Cyprus's actions and leadership in the region.

Cyprus has opened its ports to evacuation ships, provided food and water to evacuees landing on Cyprus, and ordered the State Fair Grounds to be made available for temporary shelters. We understand that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the police and port authorities have worked effectively with foreign governments and their representatives to handle the large influx of evacuees. We echo the comments of United States' and foreign officials praising Cyprus's efforts.

We appreciate and commend Cyprus's leadership in this time of crisis.

Sincerely,

Mike Bilirakis

Michael Bilirakis
Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus

Carolyn B. Maloney

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Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus

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Tom Lantos

Elton Gallegly

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Jane Harman

Rus Simmons

Phil Gingrey

Nita M. Lowey

Mildred McCotter

Eric L. Engel

Bill Foley

Bob Ney

Rush Holt

Bobby L. Rush

Peter DeFazio

Mike McIntyre

Robert E. Andrews

Gene Green

Louise M. Slaughter

Ruben Hinojosa

Sander Levin

Steven R. Rothman

Ed Royce

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Thelma Drake

Clay Shaw

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Michael E. Capuano

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Henry E. Brown

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Wm Lacy Clay

Joe Schwarz, M.D.

Sam Graves

Diane E. Watson

Jim Langevin

Mark Foley

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Pete Stark

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Tim Holden

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Ander Crenshaw

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Brad Miller

Jim McGovern

David Cicilline

Shelley Berkley

Spencer Bachus

Melissa L. Bean

Joseph Crowley

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives who are signatories to the letter:

1) Michael Bilirakis
2) Carolyn Maloney
3) Robert Simmons
4) James McGovern
5) Rush Holt
6) Mark Kirk
7) Alcee Hastings
8) Frank Pallone
9) Thelma Drake
10) Curt Weldon
11) Brian Higgins
12) Thaddeus McCotter
13) Steve Chabot
14) Jim McDermott
15) Ander Crenshaw
16) Mark Foley
17) Joseph Crowley
18) Henry Brown
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20) Elton Gallegly
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22) Tim Holden
23) Michael McNulty
24) Lois Capps
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30) Christopher Shays
31) Carol McCarthy
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33) Sherrod Brown
34) Diane Watson
35) George Radanovich
36) Lucille Roybal-Allard
37) Sue Myrick
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54) Steven Pearce
55) Robert Scott
56) John Spratt
57) Bill Young
58) Phil English
59) Robert Andews
60) Scott Garrett
61) Adam Schiff
62) Rubén Hinojosa
63) Nita Lowey
64) Brad Miller
65) Maurice Hinchey
66) Mike Honda
67) Patrick Kennedy
68) Vito Fossella
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108) Randy Forbes
109) Michael Capuano
110) John Tierney
111) Rahm Emanuel