

Brady joins the Congressional Black Caucus' call for U.S. action in Liberia (07/18/03)

PHILADELPHIA --- Congressman Robert A. Brady (D., PA.) supports the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) call for U.S. intervention in war torn Liberia. In addition, to co-sponsoring, the Liberia resolution (H. Con. Res. 240) authored by CBC member, Congressman Donald Payne (D., NJ), Congressman Brady addressed his concerns directly in a letter to President Bush.

In the letter, the Congressman said he supports the CBC's call for, "...American troops to lead an international stabilization force including West African military forces to serve as the backbone of a peacekeeping effort," in Liberia.

Brady noted his appreciation of the President's willingness to help bring peace to Liberia as expressed to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. But, the Congressman stressed, "The crisis in Liberia continues to worsen as we watch the escalation of a humanitarian disaster. The U. S. has a vital role to play in helping to stabilize a country that has been wracked by wars for nearly two decades."

The Congressman, speaking of the Liberian plight said, "Liberians are asking for American intervention, including Liberians who live in the greater Philadelphia area and the First Congressional District. I join this call for U.S military action in order to bring peace and security to people who have suffered too long.

In response to critics of U.S. intervention, the Congressman noted that, "...[A]ny commitment to military intervention is a grave decision," but "America cannot stand by passively while civilians in the capital city of Monrovia, named after U.S. President James Monroe, are murdered and tortured..."

Brady stressed, "This is not a recommendation to wage war, but I strongly believe that our troops should be part of a force that will serve in a peacekeeping and stabilizing capacity."

The Congressman expressed that the current conditions in Liberia are the perfect breeding ground for a "widespread political and economic destabilization of the larger West African region."

In conclusion, the Congressman said that the best way to ensure Liberia's future is through a U.S. commitment, "...to work with Liberia's neighbors toward establishing a long-term political solution..."