

JUN 25 2009



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUN 18 2009

Dear Mr. Dingell:

Thank you for your letter of May 22 regarding U.S. assistance for the Palestinian people.

The Department of State shares your deep concern for the welfare of the Palestinian people, including those residing in Gaza. As you know, the Secretary of State pledged more than \$900 million in assistance to the Palestinians at the March 2nd Donors' Conference at Sharm al-Sheikh. The majority of this pledge will be funded by the War Supplemental Act of 2009 and includes over \$300 million in humanitarian assistance for the West Bank and Gaza, and \$400 million to support the priorities of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PRDP).

We are actively working with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority at the highest levels on the issue of access to Gaza for humanitarian staff and relief supplies to ensure that all U.S. assistance reaches the intended recipients. We continue to emphasize the need for access for the UN and other organizations to provide the full range of required humanitarian assistance in Gaza. We are also working to support the implementation of a long-term border-crossings regime to be instituted consistent with the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access.

By providing humanitarian and early recovery assistance through the Palestinian Authority, recognized international organizations, United Nations agencies, and USAID contractors and grantees on the ground in Gaza, we can help replace misery with hope, and foster the conditions in which a Palestinian state – one that is accountable to its people and at peace with Israel – can be realized.

The Honorable
John D. Dingell,
House of Representatives.

We hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Verma

Richard R. Verma
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs