

Pls proof & approve

16, 1978

Dear :

I am writing in reference to the petition which you signed regarding the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in March. I apologize for my delay in responding.

I felt that the Israeli invasion and the Palestinian act of terror which provoked it were unfortunate. The Israeli bombings of civilian sites were certainly unjustified. I supported the U.S. position that the U.N. Security Council should call on Israel to withdraw and am encouraged that this has now occurred. Hopefully with U.N. peacekeeping forces in Southern Lebanon, there will be a greater measure of stability in the region.

I am troubled by arms sales to the region when I believe the focus should be on keeping the peace. I have always felt that peace could best be achieved by direct negotiations between the countries of that region, and pressure from the U.S., Soviet Union or others should not be used.

I appreciate your writing and look forward to hearing from you if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

PAUL E. TSONGAS
Member of Congress

PET/dwp

O/K