United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

OCT 19 2004

Dear Mr. Conyers:

The President has asked that I reply to your letter of September 20 concerning the claims of U.S. service personnel killed and injured in the LaBelle Disco bombing in Berlin in 1986.

In responding to Libya's announcement on December 19, 2003 that it would give up its WMD and destabilizing missile programs, the President committed to respond to concrete Libyan actions in good faith. The lifting of further economic sanctions on September 20 recognized Libya's achievements and our assessment that it has continued to meet the standard set for it on December 19. Among other actions, Libya facilitated the removal of all significant elements of its declared nuclear weapons program, signed the IAEA Additional Protocol, began a process of converting the Rabta facility to a pharmaceutical plant, destroyed chemical munitions and secured chemical agent for destruction under international supervision, declared its chemical agents to the Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons, eliminated its Scud-C missile force, and agreed to eliminate its Scud-B missiles. Libya also turned over nuclear weapons documentation, removed highly enriched uranium for its research reactor and equipment for uranium enrichment, allowed international personnel site access and pledged to halt all military trade with countries of proliferation concern. Revelations by Libya greatly aided the international community's effort to understand and cripple the global black market in the world's most dangerous technologies.

Libya has not, however, been removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism. Nor has the Administration forgotten the suffering of American victims of terrorism or overlooked the efforts of claimants to obtain compensation through the U.S. court system. We are urging Libya to address all outstanding terrorism claims of Americans, in coordination with

The Honorable
John Conyers, Jr.,
House of Representatives.

the claimants and their legal representatives, including the LaBelle claimants. In conjunction with U.S. action to unblock assets, and with respect to the remaining cases brought against it by U.S. victims of terrorism, Libya has reaffirmed to us that it has a policy and practice of carrying out agreed settlements and responding in good faith to legal cases brought against it, including court judgments and arbitral awards. We expect Libya to honor this commitment and have made it clear that Libyan assets being introduced into the U.S. will be at risk if it fails to do so.

Thank you for your continued support of the families of the victims of the LaBelle bombing. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs