United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 13 2003

Dear Mr. Waxman:

This is in response to your letter of December 10, 2002, to the President, which was received in the Department on January 30, 2003, concerning American companies advertising on al-Manar television in Lebanon, as reported in an op-ed piece in the Los Angeles Times on October 13, 2002.

Over the course of the past several months, our Embassy in Lebanon has aggressively pursued the issue of engagement by U.S. firms or subsidiaries in advertising on al-Manar. The Embassy contacted the local offices of all of the companies reportedly involved in such activity, and the Department was in contact with the U.S. corporate representatives, to urge in the strongest terms that they immediately end all commercial relations, including advertising, with al-Manar.

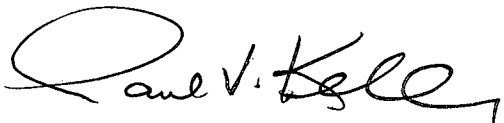
At present, none of those companies are advertising with al-Manar and all have told us that they have no plans to do so again in the future. To our knowledge, no other American companies are currently advertising on al-Manar. Embassy staff monitor the station to confirm these facts.

While foreign subsidiaries of American companies are normally beyond the reach of U.S. sanctions, the Department of State has stressed to U.S. parent companies, and will continue to emphasize, how unacceptable any business relationship is between the media outlet of a designated foreign terrorist organization and the foreign subsidiary of a U.S. company.

The Honorable
Henry Waxman,
House of Representatives.

We hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs