

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 1985

The Right Honorable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of Great Britain
10 Downing Street
London, England

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

As members of the United States Congress, we write to express our grave concern about recent British government decisions affecting the Middle East. Our two nations have a common interest in bringing peace to this turbulent region, but it is clear to us that these recent decisions by your government will undermine the already slim chances of success for the fragile peace process that our government is now attempting to encourage. With so much riding on the renewed hope for peace, it would be counter-productive for your government to pursue these policies.

First, your government's sale of Tornado fighter aircraft and Hawk trainers to Saudi Arabia is most unfortunate. It rewards Saudi Arabia before it has taken positive steps to contribute to the peace process, and it provides no incentive for that government to participate in lessening tensions in the region.

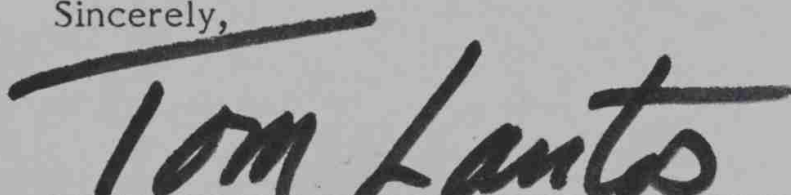
Furthermore, this sale will bring about a new escalation of the regional arms race. It is the Saudi intention to base these offensive aircraft only 100 miles from Israel but 800 miles from the Saudi oil fields they are ostensibly protecting. Without a resolution of outstanding issues between Israel on one-hand and Saudi Arabia and Jordan on the other, your government's arms sale will simply increase the level of violence.

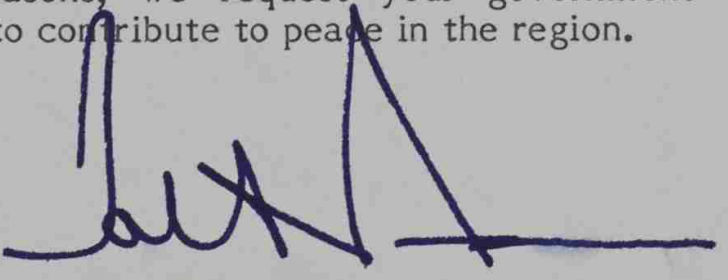
It is also of concern to us that the government of Great Britain has maintained an embargo, in effect, on the sale of arms to Israel for well over a decade now, but you are willing to sell massive quantities of sophisticated offensive weapons to Israel's enemies.

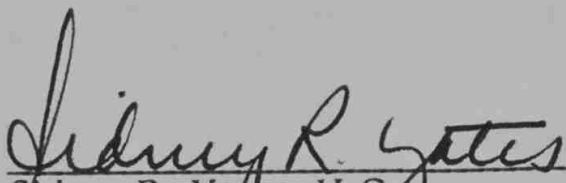
Second, we are also most concerned with the recent statement by your government that high-level British officials will meet with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The PLO has not accepted Israel's right to exist and it has been the principal source of terrorism and instability in the Middle East. Until the PLO is willing to contribute to peace in the region, such a meeting with British officials will only frustrate and delay peace efforts. Combined with the expressed intention to supply aircraft to Saudi Arabia, this meeting sends the wrong signal to moderate Arab nations. We strongly urge that this meeting not take place.

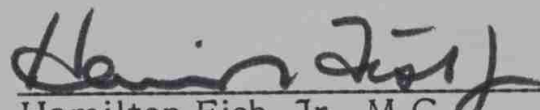
For these urgent and compelling reasons, we request your government to reconsider these unfortunate policies in order to contribute to peace in the region.


Sincerely,

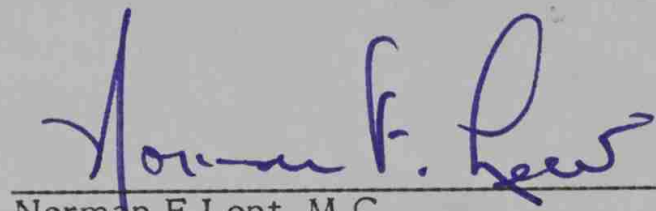

Tom Lantos, M.C.

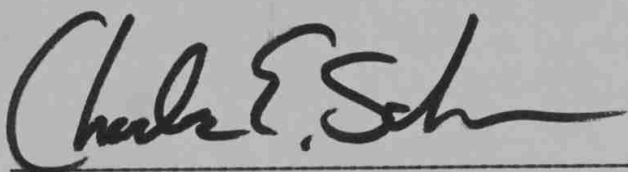

John Edward Porter, M.C.

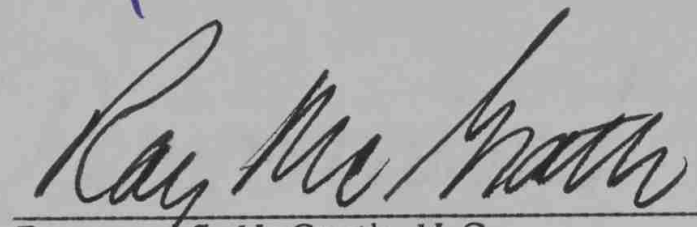

Sidney R. Yates, M.C.


Hamilton Fish, Jr., M.C.

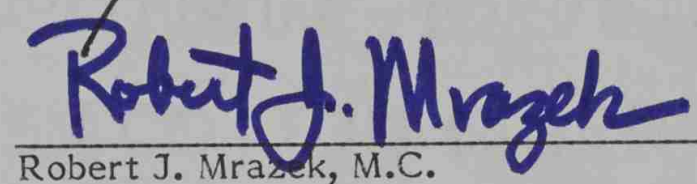

Stephen J. Solarz, M.C.

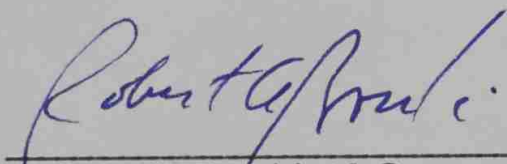

Norman F. Lent, M.C.

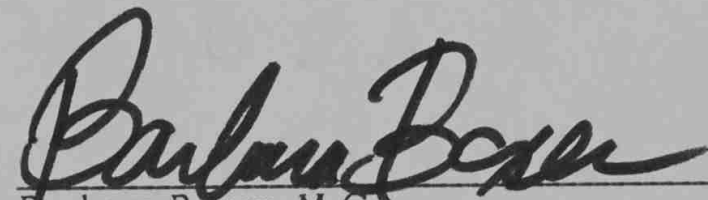

Charles E. Schumer, M.C.

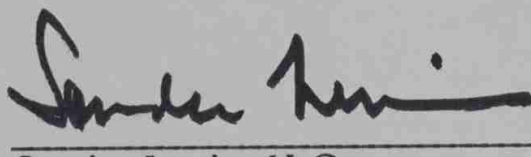

Raymond J. McGrath, M.C.

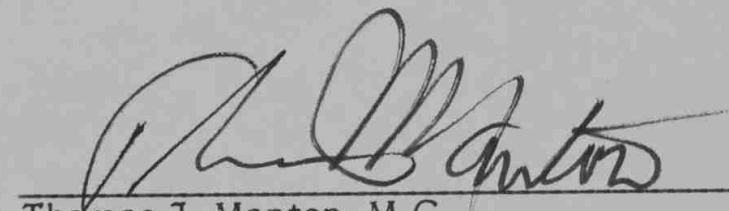

Robert Garcia, M.C.



Robert J. Mrazek, M.C.



Robert A. Borski, M.C.

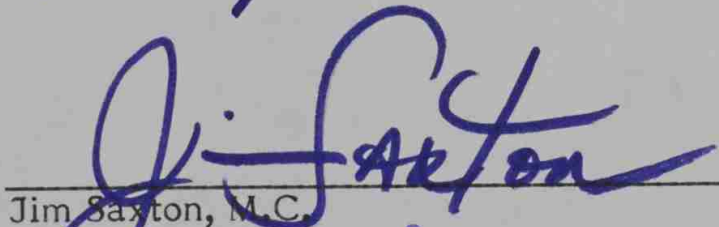

Barbara Boxer, M.C.

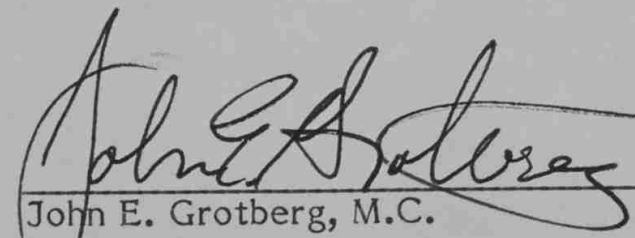

Sander Levin, M.C.

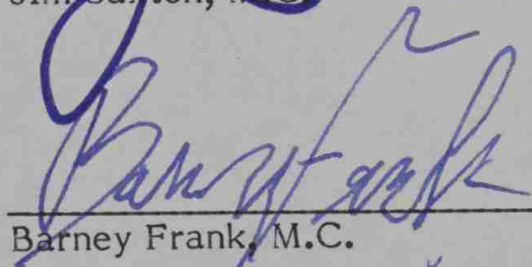

Thomas J. Manton, M.C.

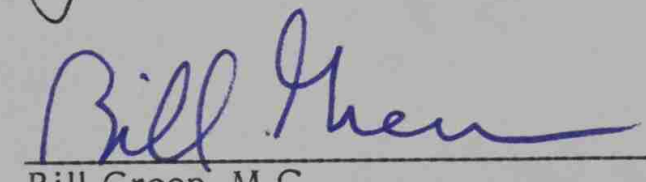

Gerry Sikorski, M.C.

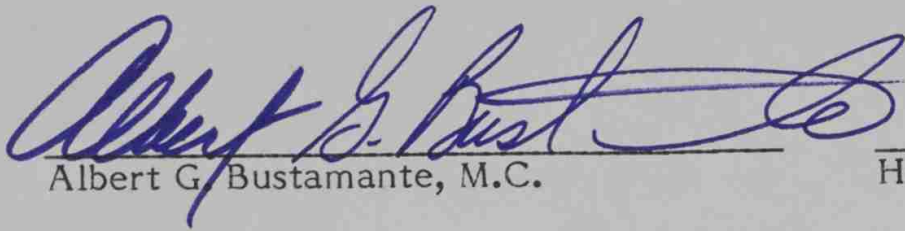

Ben Erdreich, M.C.

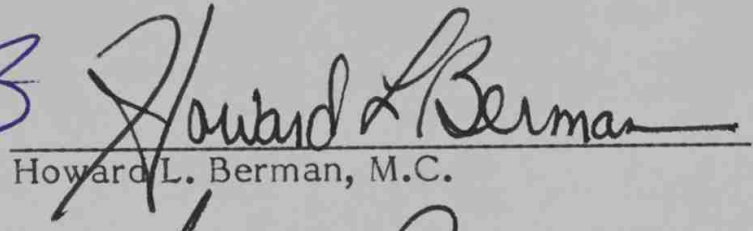

Jim Saxton, M.C.

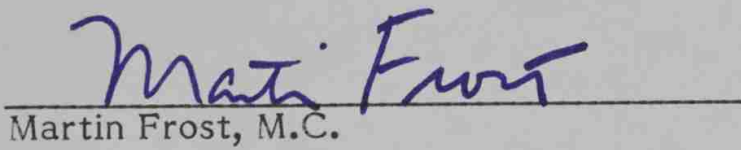

John E. Grotberg, M.C.

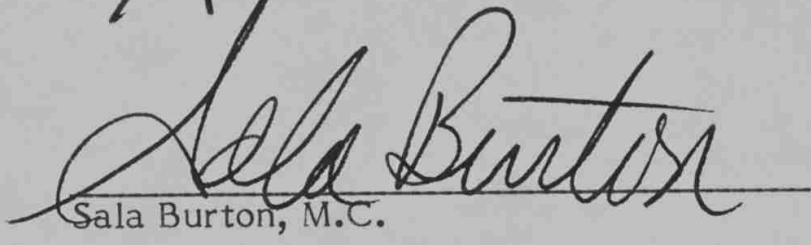

Barney Frank, M.C.

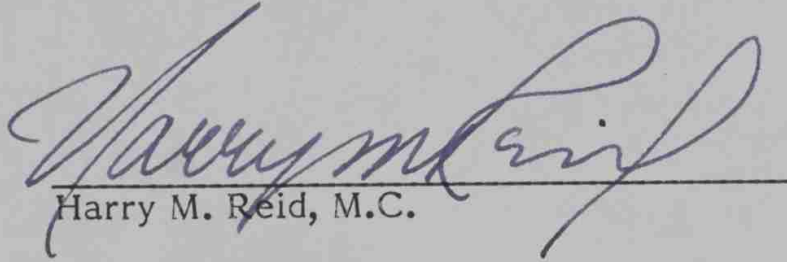

Bill Green, M.C.

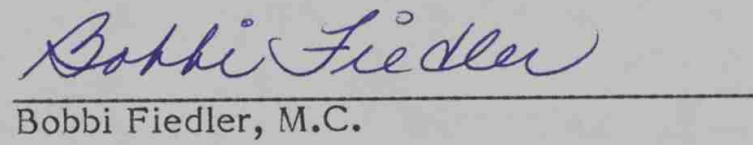

Albert G. Bustamante, M.C.

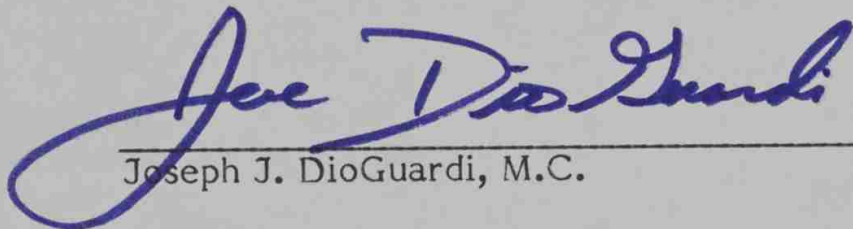

Howard L. Berman, M.C.


Martin Frost, M.C.

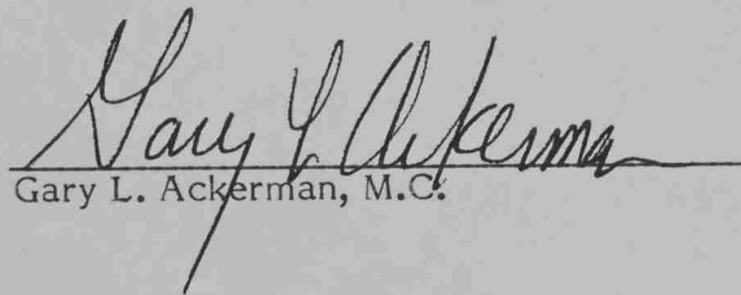

Sala Burton, M.C.

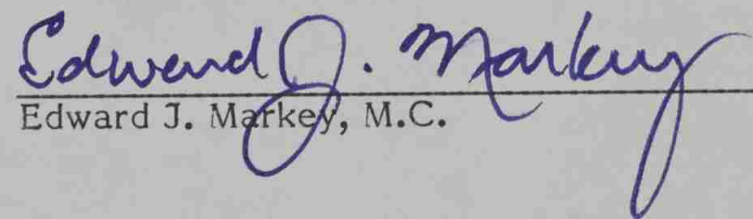

Harry M. Reid, M.C.

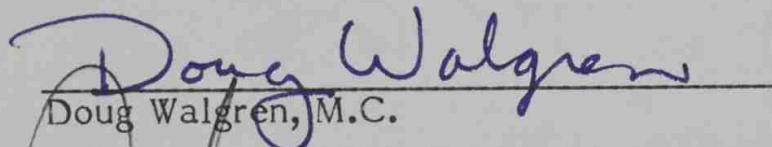

Bobbi Fiedler, M.C.

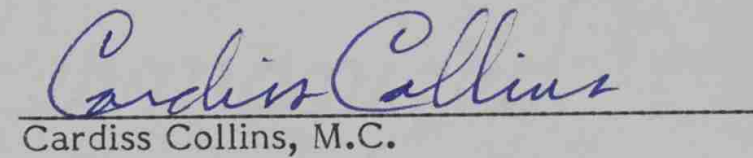

Joseph J. DioGuardi, M.C.

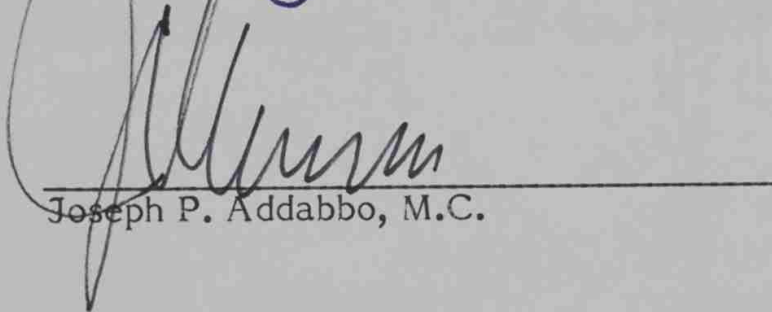

Jim Moody, M.C.

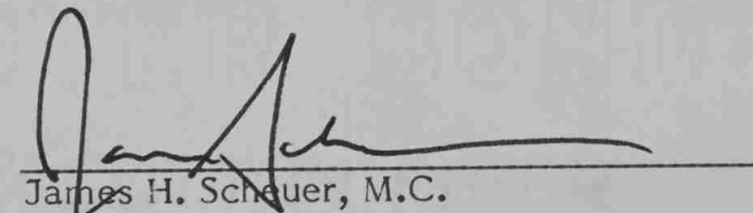

Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.

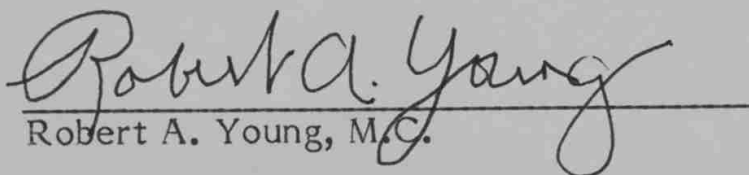

Edward J. Markey, M.C.

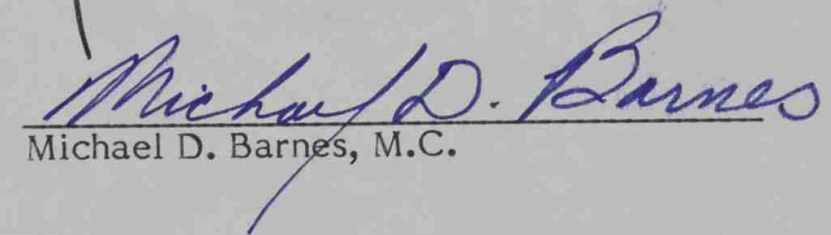

Doug Walgren, M.C.


Cardiss Collins, M.C.

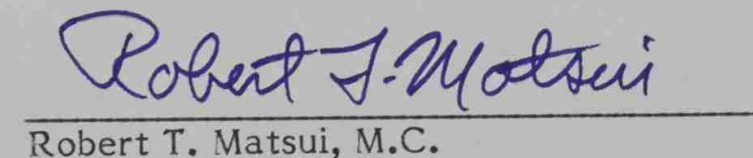

Joseph P. Addabbo, M.C.



James H. Scheuer, M.C.


Robert A. Young, M.C.

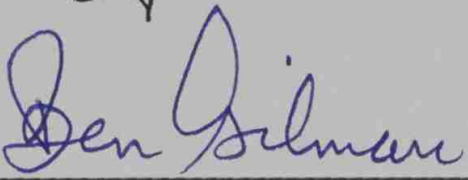

Michael D. Barnes, M.C.

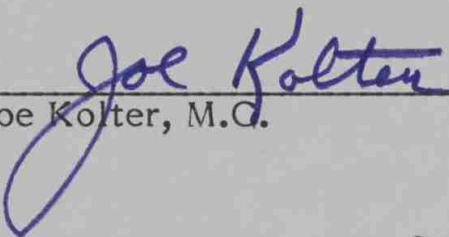

Les AuCoin, M.C.

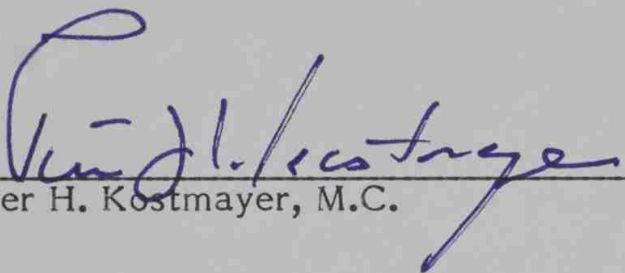

Robert T. Matsui, M.C.

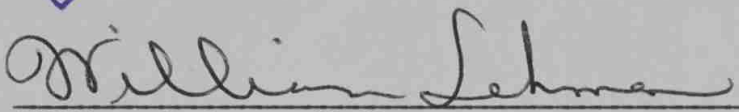

Lawrence Coughlin, M.C.



Richard J. Durbin, M.C.


Benjamin A. Gilman, M.C.

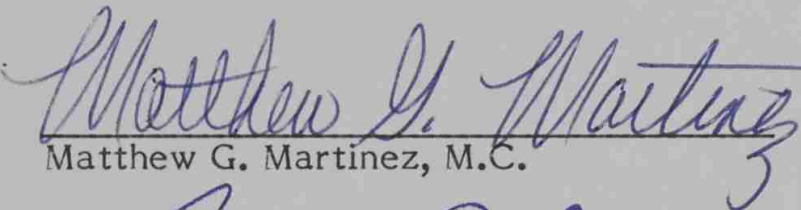

Joe Kolter, M.C.

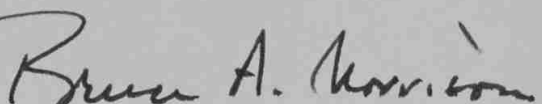

Peter H. Kostmayer, M.C.

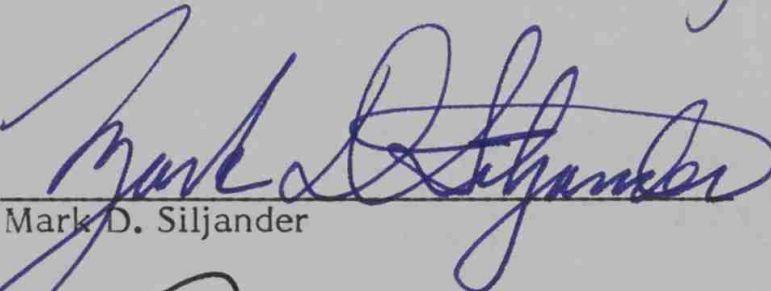

William Lehman, M.C.

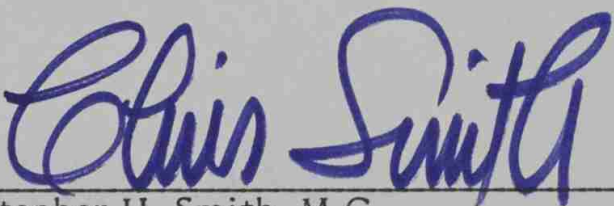

Mel Levine, M.C.

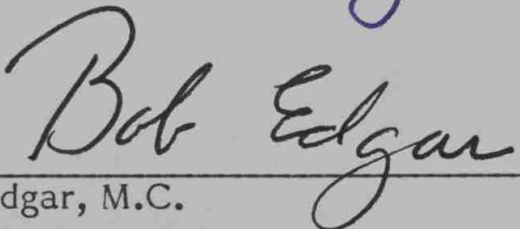

Thomas A. Luken, M.C.


Matthew G. Martinez, M.C.


Bruce A. Morrison, M.C.


Mark D. Siljander


Christopher H. Smith, M.C.


Bob Edgar, M.C.