

00 504 MAY 20 93

May 13, 1993

[REDACTED]
Maryland Hts., Mo

63043

C-SPAN
Suite 650
400 N. Capitol St
Washington D.C. 20001-1511

Dear Sir:

This is input from the trenches. Perhaps you will be able to discover whether this is rumor or fact. My son is in Mogadishu. He tells me that while he and his company receive their normal base pay, soldiers from other nations receive \$150 per day from the United Nations and \$65 per day from the United Arab Emirates. This is in addition to the base pay they receive from their respective nations.

The rationale for not paying Americans this additional money is that the American soldiers are not mercenaries. Does this mean that soldiers from other countries are mercenaries? The United States is the largest contributor to the United Nations. If the United States is paying mercenaries, perhaps we could employ them on the open market, get the price down and get our boys home.

Maybe the need is for an American presence in that area. In that case we could give American soldiers hardship pay. This way, when the Americans came home they would have enough money to buy a new car or put a downpayment on a house. Think of how this would help our economy. After all, the money we are paying foreign soldiers through the United Nations (if we are paying them) is certainly not helping us except to make it appear we have some type of support from other nations.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]