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8-30-1990

News Release - 1990-08-30a

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news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE---30 August 1990

HOMEPORT INGLESIDE STILL VIABLE

WASHINGTON---"The U.S. Navy's Homeport at Ingleside is still very much alive despite the announced decommissioning of the aircraft carrier **U.S.S. Lexington**," Congressman Kika de la Garza said today.

The Congressman, who is working in his district, said, "The Navy has assured me that the retirement of **Lexington** is unrelated to plans for our Homeport and for the homeporting concept as a whole. In addition, the Navy continues to say that it has not decided exactly which ships are to be based at Ingleside. I think that the operative word there is 'which.'"

The Navy originally planned to berth the battleship **U.S.S. Wisconsin**, the **U.S.S. Lexington** and eight smaller support ships at Ingleside. No announcements have been made regarding **Wisconsin** or the other ships.

"Obviously it would be ideal if a replacement aircraft carrier for the **U.S.S. Lexington** could be found," the South Texas Congressman said. "However, Homeport Ingleside is not tied to any one particular ship. That will come down the line. In the meantime, I will continue to dedicate my efforts to getting this facility operational."

Mr. de la Garza said that developments in the Middle East have proven the need of a strong Navy, one that is ready to go into action on short notice. He added that he is urging the Secretary of Defense to freeze any further reductions in the armed forces until the Administration and the Congress has had an opportunity to assess the nation's military needs.

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