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June 26, 2003

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Condemns Terrorism Against Israel, Calls On
Palestinian Authority To Dismantle Terrorist Infrastructure

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) late yesterday helped pass a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives condemning the terrorism inflicted on Israel since the June 4 Aqaba summit, expressing solidarity with the Israeli people, and calling on the Palestinian Authority to take immediate and effective steps to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure on the West Bank and Gaza. Rothman cosponsored the measure which was approved by a margin of 399 to 5.

"This resolution makes it clear to the world that the United States will always stand by its strategic military partner and trusted friend -- the only democracy in the Middle East -- the State of Israel," said Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and former member of the House International Relations Committee. "In order for the road map for peace to progress, it is critical that all Palestinian terrorist groups are eliminated so that they can no longer threaten Israel."

The resolution commends President Bush for his vision of a peaceful, two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and affirms that this vision can be fully realized only when terrorism is defeated, so that Israel will truly be secure as it allows the creation of a sovereign State of Palestine on its border. Such a Palestinian state, the resolution notes, must be based on peaceful relations with Israel, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Additionally, the resolution calls on all countries to cease recognition of Palestinian and all other terrorist groups and to stop providing political and material support to them.

"Clearly, Israel desires peace for the sake of its own children and its own well-being. Israel and the Israeli people have suffered from acts of terrorism for far too long. But it cannot be peace at any price," Rothman said. "The Palestinians must first prove to the Israelis their desire to forever live in peace with Israel. It is essential that the Palestinian leadership commit themselves to their own children's future rather than destroying that future by not eliminating the rejectionists among them, who still seek Israel's destruction."

The resolution concludes by calling on all states to provide support to the Palestinian Authority in its effort to confront and fight terror, and to assist the Palestinian people in creating the institutions of a democratic state that will respect the rule of law and live in peace with its neighbors.

Just several months ago, Rothman used his position as a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations to push through \$3.1 billion in military aid and nearly \$10 billion in economic assistance and loan guarantees for Israel as part of the United States foreign aid budget for Fiscal Year 2003.

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