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Contacts leader to express sorrow and support for India's war on terror

Washington, DC -- In response to the recent terrorist attack on India's Parliament, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) recently contacted Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to share his profound shock and sorrow with the leader, and to express solidarity with the world's largest democracy as it fights terrorism in its own backyard. Rothman and other Members of Congress wrote a letter to Prime Minister Vajpayee saying that he was, "particularly affected by the fact that this atrocity occurred at one of the world's most prominent institutions of democracy, and was aimed at the elected officials who are dedicated to serving the people of India. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11th, we in Congress have become acutely aware of the increasing threat we face in our seat of democracy, yet we are more determined than ever not to be intimidated by terrorism. We are greatly encouraged that your government and the Members of Parliament have demonstrated unity and resolve in the face of a vicious and cowardly attack perpetrated by enemies of democracy."

Recalling India's immediate response to the September 11th terrorist attacks, in which it expressed its condolences with the United States, its solidarity with the American people, and its commitment to the anti-terrorism coalition, Rothman said India and its people have the full backing and support of the United States as it deals with terrorism at home.

"Since September 11th, the government and people of India have demonstrated steadfast support and cooperation with the United States. In the same spirit of friendship and partnership, we stand ready to provide your government with assistance to find those responsible for this attack. It is our intention that whatever assistance is deemed appropriate be provided as quickly and effectively as possible. In addition, please know that we support India's right to defend herself against acts of terrorism and aggression that threaten the security of India."

Last month, Rothman met with Vajpayee when the Prime Minister visited Capitol Hill to show India's support for America's war on terrorism. Rothman told Vajpayee that he considered India a good friend of the United States and pledged to continue working to ensure that the ties between the two countries remain strong.

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