

## Rothman Meets With Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

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Calls India a Friend to the United States and a Partner in War on Terrorism

Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman met with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on November 8 at a Capitol Hill lunch to discuss India's role in the war on terrorism. Rothman called India a good friend of the United States and pledged to continue working to ensure that the ties between the two countries remain strong.

"As the world's largest democracy, India was a true friend of the United States before the September 11 attacks, and continues to be a strong partner and ally of our nation after September 11," Rothman said. "From the day terrorists attacked America, India has expressed its condolences for the terrible losses, its solidarity with the American people, and its commitment to the anti-terrorism coalition that will end the existence of all those who wish to do any innocent person harm. I am extremely appreciative of India's response to these horrific events."

Rothman also applauded Congress for unanimously passing a resolution that welcomed Prime Minister Vajpayee and expressed the appreciation of the United States for India's ongoing contributions in the war on terrorism. Additionally, Rothman praised Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld for traveling to India earlier in the week to meet with India's Defense Minister George Fernandes and strengthen the military ties and cooperation between the two nations. "With an estimated 250 people of Indian origin killed in the attacks of September 11, India shares America's pain," Rothman said. "As we continue the war on terrorism, India will play a vital role. The partnership between the United States and India is one that we all value greatly, and as Secretary Rumsfeld noted, it is one that needs to become even stronger."

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