

# Congressman Nick Rahall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 17, 1984

CONTACT: Jerry Burkot  
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Washington, D.C.--U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) today sent a letter to the Israeli Minister of Energy inviting him to meet with the 4th District Congressman to discuss his country's purchase of West Virginia coal.

Israel, the single largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, is currently relying on such countries as Colombia and South Africa for much of their coal requirements. Minister of Energy Moshe Shachel is in Colombia this week to complete negotiations for the purchase of 5 million metric tons of coal over a five year period.

In his letter to Shachel, Rahall invited the Minister to meet with him to discuss Israel's coal needs and requirements and to better acquaint him with the type of coals produced in southern West Virginia.

Rahall's native state of West Virginia is responsible for the greatest amount of U.S. coal exported on the international market. Congressman Rahall is also chairman of the Congressional Coal Group made up of members of Congress from coal-producing regions.

"In light of the historical, special relationship between the United States and Israel," Rahall noted, "I feel it would be most beneficial to both countries if we were to be able to provide the Israelis with their energy needs."

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House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 16, 1985

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His Excellency Moshe Shachel  
Minister of Energy  
c/o Embassy of the State of Israel  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Minister:

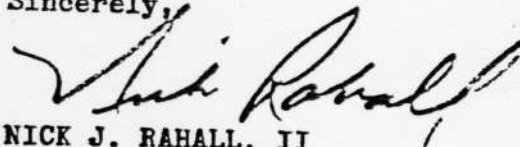
It recently came to my attention that you are in the process of reaching an agreement with Colombia for the purchase of 5 million metric tons of coal over a five-year period.

Being the chairman of the Congressional Coal Group and a Representative in the U.S. Congress of West Virginia, a state responsible for the greatest amount of U.S. coal exported on the international market, I have a vital interest in matters relating to the coal trade and would like to take this opportunity to invite you to meet with me at your convenience to discuss Israel's coal needs and requirements and to better acquaint you with the type of low-sulfur, low-ash and high-Btu coal we have in southern West Virginia.

I make this invitation in the spirit of the historic trading relationship which exists between our two countries and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II  
Member of Congress

NJR/jz



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שר האנרגיה והתשתית  
MINISTER OF ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

5th March, 1985

Hon. Nick J. Rahall, II  
Member of Congress  
House of Representatives  
440 Cannon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
U. S. A..

Dear Congressman Rahall,

I wish to thank you for your kind invitation to meet with you.  
At present, I have no travel plans to the U.S.

In January, we entered into an agreement with Columbia whereby we will receive 5 million metric tons of coal over a five year period. This coal will be paid for by exporting an equivalent value of products from Israel to Columbia. As a member of Congress, I am certain that you are pleased to see Israel take advantage of such opportunities to increase exports from Israel and thereby improve our trade balance.

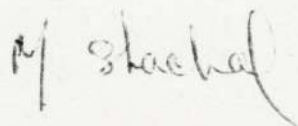
Israel, as a small country almost devoid of natural resources, is dependent on industrial development and export to establish and maintain a healthy economy. That is why Israel seeks outlets to countries for its goods; countries which the U.S. has already established extensive trade relations.

The historic and special relationship existing between the United States and Israel also includes, as you have eloquently stated, an historic trading relationship. That is one of the substantive reasons we are presently purchasing 500,000 tons of coal from Westmoreland of the U.S. in spite of the fact that the cost of this coal is substantially more than other sources. It is our present intention to continue to purchase coal from the U.S.

If an opportunity occurs, I hope we can meet and further discuss the matter.

In the meantime, I remain

Very truly yours,



Moshe Shachal